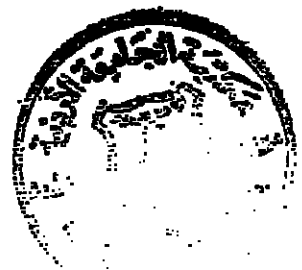


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NO. 7743 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1989/JAMADIUL AWWAL 19, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILS



Gotcha
Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, considered one of the top bosses of the Medellin Cartel of drug traffickers, was killed by police, the Colombian police and US officials said. (Reuter wirephoto). Details on Page 5.

Kashmir militants clash with police

SRINAGAR, Dec 16, (AP): Muslim separatists clashed with police and torched a government building and a road bridge in Kashmir today as major towns in the northern state continued to be under curfew restrictions, witnesses and police said.

Authorities imposed curfews in five towns of Jammu-Kashmir state yesterday to stop the separatists from celebrating the release of five of their jailed colleagues in a ransom swap.

Shoaib S. Ali, deputy inspector general of the state police, said police fired in the air at two places in Srinagar today when mobs hurled stones at police patrol and made attempts to violate curfew restrictions. There were no casualties.

Srinagar is the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir.

The five militants of the Kashmir Liberation Front were released in exchange for Rubia Sayeed, a medical intern at a Srinagar hospital, and the youngest daughter of Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Sayeed is the first Muslim to be named to the sensitive post by the new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh which took office on Dec 2.

Separatists set on fire a government building in Kulgam area and torched a wooden road bridge at Naner today.

At least five people were killed in the state yesterday in mob violence and police actions.

Curfew fails to stop Pak riots

KARACHI, Dec 16, (Reuter): Six people were killed today in ethnic violence in the southern Pakistani town of Hyderabad despite an army curfew, doctors and eyewitnesses said.

The deaths took to 18 the toll from five days of clashes between native Sindhis and Mohajir immigrants from India in the town in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province of Sindh.

Four people were killed by unidentified gunmen after authorities cancelled the usual daily break in the curfew.

Weather
FAIR weather with light to moderate northerly wind.
State of sea: Slight to moderate.
High water: 1.30 am, 4.00 pm
Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.36 am
Sunset: 4.52 pm
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 17°C/63°F
Abu Dhabi: 16°C/61°F
Ajman: 16°C/61°F
Minimum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 17°C/63°F
Abu Dhabi: 16°C/61°F
Ajman: 16°C/61°F
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 23°C/73°F
Abu Dhabi: 20°C/68°F
Ajman: 20°C/68°F

Amir leaves for Oman summit by car

KUWAIT, Dec 16, (AP): HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, left today on a 600-mile (1,000 km) drive to Oman, host of next week's summit meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

The Amir was seen off at the borders by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah, and head of Kuwait's National Guard Sheikh Salem Al Ali.

It is the first time that a leader of one of the Gulf Arab states makes such a long voyage by land.

The official media said the Kuwaiti leader reached the Saudi city of Dammam today, but gave no details of the other stops he planned to make on his trip.

The Amir will be in the Omani capital, Muscat, before the opening session on Monday of the six-nation GCC.

In addition to Saudi Arabia, the voyage will take him through three other GCC countries — Bahrain, Qatar and the U.A.E.

Meanwhile, a top GCC official was quoted in Muscat today as saying that the GCC does not want to be "a replacement" for the role played by the United Nations over the Iran-Iraq dispute.

GCC Secretary-General Abdulla Bishara said that the Gulf Co-operation Council has proved itself as a solid regional group.

Ten Kuwaiti personalities, in addition to 50 others from the Gulf, will be honoured in a special ceremony to be held on the second day of the GCC summit.

'Firm' grip seen

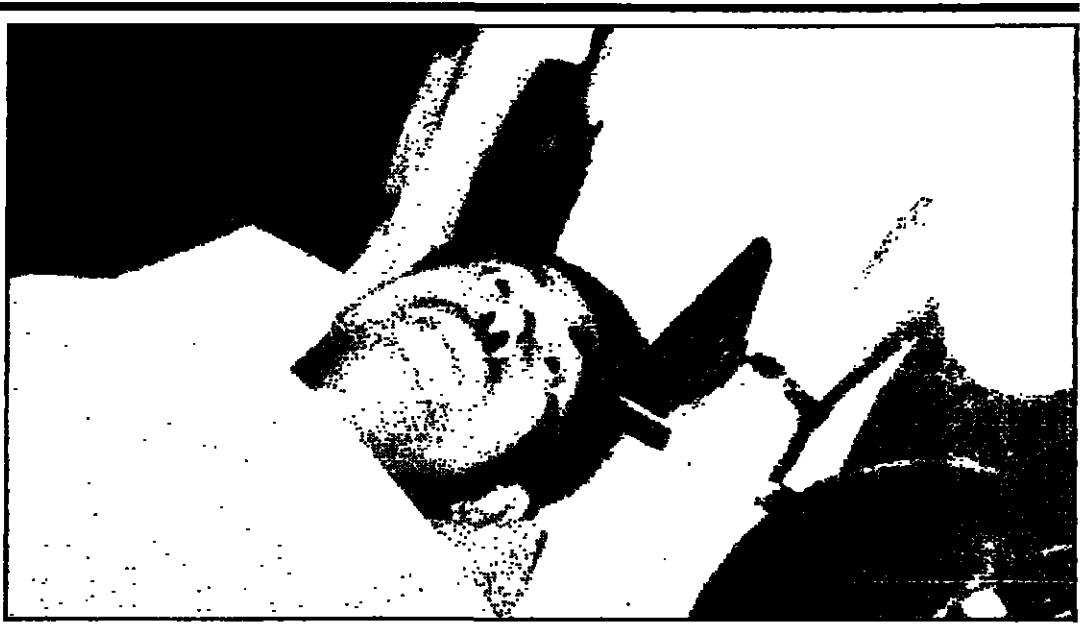
Kuwait to activate private sector

KUWAIT, Dec 16, (Kuna): Planning Minister and acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi today affirmed that the government was determined to allow the private sector to launch a more effective role through participation alongside the government sector in improving the country's economic performance.

Awadi explained, in a press conference at the Planning Ministry's premises on the country's long term development strategy, that there was a follow-up committee entrusted with studying the economic committee's report.

The committee was trying to ensure greater contribution of the private sector in the country's economy by handing over a number of government institutions to the private sector to boost the economy.

The government was considering asking the private sector to employ national cadres, Awadi said, adding that the country's new economic plan did not emanate from a vacuum but was based on extensive endeavour by various committees and work teams.



The injured hijacker is taken to a hospital in Fukuoka, Japan. (Reuter wirephoto)

Chinese family hijacks plane

Sick of life in Beijing

TOKYO, Dec 16, (AP): A man who along with his wife and child hijacked a Chinese civilian aircraft to Japan told authorities he had grown disillusioned with his country after the bloody crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

Later today, Japan said it would initiate procedures for sending the hijackers back to China. But authorities did not rule out the possibility that the hijackers — a Chinese family of three — might seek political asylum.

The hijacker, a 35-year-old cotton factory foreman, reportedly told Japanese police he was sick of life in China in the wake of the June crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators. He said he had joined in protests calling for reforms.

Air China Flight 981, carrying 200 passengers and 23 crew members, was on a flight from Beijing to New York, via Shanghai and San Francisco, when Zhang Zhenhai allegedly claimed to have a bomb and ordered the pilot to divert to South Korea. South Korean authorities refused to let the plane land and it flew to Fukuoka, 900 kms southwest of Tokyo.

The hijacking ended when a crew member shoved Zhang out the back door of the plane after it landed in Japan.

A senior Japanese government official said today that Japan will "speedily" return the Air China Boeing 747 to China.

Deputy chief cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara, in a televised news conference, also indicated Japanese authorities were taking steps that could lead to turning over the hijackers to Chinese authorities.

But he stopped short of saying the family actually would be sent back to China, where they would be certain to face harsh retribution.

Japan cannot automatically deport the hijackers if they ask for political asylum, and Ishihara noted the government did not yet know the family's wishes in the matter.

Zhang was being treated at a hospital for injuries suffered when he fell from the jetliner.

"The plane landed in Fukuoka at 2:52 pm (0552 GMT), 41 minutes after entering Japanese airspace and nearly four hours after taking off from Beijing.

When the plane landed, pursuer Wei Li opened a rear door and told Zhang, "Look, this is Seoul," an official of the Fukuoka prefectural police said.

When Zhang peered out the door, Wei rushed him out and he fell to the ground, said the official, who would not give his name. He said he did not know if Wei was a man or woman.

Zhang suffered injuries that officials said could require up to six months' treatment. A woman companion who Zhang told police was his wife was overpowered, along with a 10-year-old boy thought to be their son.

Zhang told Japanese police he had intended to bring aboard a bomb but instead left it at a hotel in Beijing, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported.

Police said security officers began patrolling several Beijing hotels later today after the hijacker said he had left a bomb in a hotel bathroom.

Minister survives bombing

CAIRO, Dec 16, (Reuter): A Turk carrying explosives blew up in central Cairo today in what police believe was an attempt to kill Egypt's hard-line Interior Minister Zaki Badr, Interior Ministry sources said.

Badr, whose motorcade was about 30 metres (yards) away when the truck exploded on a route he used every day, was not hurt.

"It was not an accident. It was an attack," one Interior Ministry source said. "Police will now investigate to find out whether an individual or an organisation was behind it."

Badr is feared by many in Egypt for his tough line on opposition groupings, particularly Islamic militants. Thousands have been jailed under emergency laws which allow people to be detained without trial.

Police said the truck driver was arrested as he ran from the scene of the blast. An Interior Ministry statement said the man detained was carrying false identity papers.

Yang to visit Middle East

BEIJING, Dec 16, (Reuter): China's President Yang Shangkun, 82, whose political star has risen during China's crackdown on dissent since June, leaves tomorrow for a tour of four Middle Eastern countries.

Yang's itinerary takes him to Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman — all nations whose ties with Beijing have been undisturbed by China's political turmoil.

Middle Eastern diplomats described the tour as intended to reaffirm Chinese ties to the region, where Beijing has few direct interests but is eager for greater economic links, especially with Kuwait and other oil-rich states.

The trip also serves as an unconventional diplomatic excursion at a time when China's relations with the outside world are at their worst for several years.

'Marcos liable'

Imelda must pay \$15 m in murder case

SEATTLE, Dec 16, (AP): Ferdinand Marcos, the late deposed ruler of the Philippines, was found liable yesterday in the 1981 murders of two anti-Marcos activists in Seattle.

Marcos' estate and his widow, Imelda, were ordered to pay more than \$15 million to the family of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes.

Family members and supporters of the plaintiffs cried as US district judge Barbara Rothstein read the unanimous verdicts, and erupted in cheers when the judge dismissed the jurors.

The verdicts found Marcos and his widow were part of a conspiracy and were negligent in a way that led to the shooting deaths on June 1, 1981, in offices of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union in this northwestern US city.

A six-member jury deliberated five hours before ruling on the involvement of the Marcoses in the shooting deaths of Domingo and Viernes.

"We were informed today that the jury in Seattle has rendered a substantial damages award against the estate and myself," Mrs. Marcos said in a statement issued in Honolulu. "We believe there are important legal issues in this case which will ultimately cause the verdict to be reversed."

The civil lawsuit was the first of several legal cases against the Marcoses to go to trial in this country, according to the Marcoses' attorney, Richard Hibel of Washington, DC.

"I myself thought that the case was one that could not be won," Hibel said. "There is an appeal already before the court."

Michael Withey, lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said he would ask state prosecutors to reopen the criminal investigation in the case.

Three men were convicted of murder in 1981 and 1982, but on the theory that Domingo and Viernes were killed because of an internal dispute in the union, of which they were reform officers.

"Clearly, the foreign head of state of a country has been implicated in crimes committed in the United States," Withey said. "Other countries... better notify the same thing in the US."

Jurors had to decide whether the Marcoses were part of a conspiracy that led to the murders and whether they were negligent in exercising control over their intelligence network.

A unanimous verdict on either of those questions was sufficient to find Marcos' estate and Mrs. Marcos liable and subject to damages.



McCindy Domingo (Centre), sister of slain cannery worker Silme Domingo, hugs Silme's daughter's Ligaya, 12, (right) and Kalyaan, 9, on the steps of Seattle courthouse. (Reuter wirephoto).

Troops sent to calm Davao

'Coups is finished'

MANILA, Dec 16, (AP): The nation's military chief today played down reports that rebel soldiers were marching on a major southern city and said troops were sent there to calm the public.

Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa said about 500 marines were airlifted yesterday to Davao city from Zamboanga province after rumours that soldiers involved in last week's failed coup attempt were set to launch new attacks against President Corason Aquino.

Davao is about 960 kilometres (560 miles) southeast of Manila.

"The coup (attempt) is finished, but we are just making sure that the situation does not deteriorate," De Villa told reporters. "There's a lot of disinformation going on and most of these, from Mindanao, are misconceptions and apprehensions of the populace."

"We should guard against rumours. We should guard against intrigues. We should guard against lies that have no basis because they only cause trouble," De Villa told reporters. "Mindanao remains to be stable. It's all disinformation. What the rebels have is a rumour brigade."

De Villa confirmed that a renegade soldier, Lt Col Alexander Noble, former chief of staff of Aquino's Guard Force, has been seen in a province north of Davao leading a "handful of bodyguards." De Villa said the mutineers were too few to be considered a "rebel force."

On Friday, Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay, area military commander, said marines were flown to the city to secure the airport, banks and other key installations following reports of rebel troop movements.

Baccay said there were reports that an unknown number of rebels had left their garrison, about 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of Davao, but it was uncertain where they were heading.

The failed coup, launched Dec 1, was the sixth and most serious attempt to topple Aquino. At least 113 people were killed and more than 500 wounded before the attempt ended Dec 9.

Military officials estimate that up to 3,000 soldiers and officers joined the putsch, but over half of them have either been captured or have surrendered to government soldiers.

Meanwhile, the military said today that suspected communist rebels killed a northern town mayor and seven others in an apparent stepping up of attacks to take advantage of the confusion in the military following the coup attempt.

A military report reaching the armed forces headquarters in Manila said the ambush took place yesterday in the town of Piat in Cagayan province, about 350 kilometres (220 miles) north of Manila.

Large quake rocks Mindanao — Page 2

Mohtashemi wins seat in Parliament

NICOSIA, Dec 16, (Reuter): Iranian radical Ali Akbar Mohtashemi has won a parliamentary seat in by-elections seen as a test of liberal reforms.

The Iranian news agency Irna said today that Mohtashemi, dropped as interior minister by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani five months ago, took one of four Tehran constituencies where by-elections were held yesterday.

It said moderate Mohammad Movahhedi Kermani, a mullah seen as a supporter of Rafsanjani's economic reforms and relatively conciliatory foreign policy, was also elected in Tehran.

The agency, did not say who won the other two seats in the capital but Tehran radio reported early results showed moderates in the lead.

The fiercely anti-Western Mohtashemi, who was instrumental in forming the Hezbollah party in Lebanon, was endorsed by radical clerics who favour exporting the Islamic revolution.

The official Irna news agency, announced yesterday the winners of five other polls held in constituencies outside Tehran.

Courteous driving pays

ADDISON, Texas, Dec 16, (AP): Police in this Texas town are stopping motorists who drive courteously. Then, they pay them.

Police are handing out \$20 cash certificates until Christmas eve to good drivers. Cash-winning behaviour includes allowing someone to change lanes or letting a car into the road during bumper-to-bumper traffic.

The Christmas-season programme, courtesy of the Addison police department and Addison Rotary Club, is in its fifth year.

In his interview with the Arab Times, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister said that there are some government employees who maltreat the public with the aim of getting the public to direct their anger at the government.

It is the right of the people to obtain the best services from the government staff and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister promised to "trace" such elements in the government who distort the image of the staff.

We hope that all people who have complaints of maltreatment submit them to the office of HH the Crown Prince to enable him to get acquainted with what is happening.

Zahed Matar

Jet plunges 13,000 feet as volcano debris disrupts air traffic over Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Dec 16, (UPI): A jumbo jet plunged 13,000 feet (4,000 m) yesterday when all four engines stalled after the plane flew into a cloud of volcanic ash from the erupting Redoubt volcano, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

The KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Boeing 747 landed safely in Anchorage after the crew restarted the engines, but FAA spokeswoman Ivy Moore said, "the whole aircraft looks like it was sand-blasted."

One of the 231 passengers, a baby, was slightly hurt, but was treated and released from a local hospital, KLM said. Fourteen crew members were uninjured. The plane dropped from 25,000 feet (7,600 m) immediately after the jet flew into a cloud of ash 75 miles (120 km) northwest of Anchorage at noon on a flight from Amsterdam to Tokyo via a scheduled stop in Anchorage, Moore said.

At least two other planes reported problems when they flew into ash near Anchorage, but Moore said a Markair commercial jet and a military plane landed safely.

Flights have been rerouted, forced to make 200-mile (320 km) detours, diverted to other cities or simply cancelled as the volcano wreaked havoc with air traffic, according to the FAA and Anchorage International Airport officials.

Anchorage airport filled with passengers unable to fly last night, one of the busiest travel times of the year, airport operations manager Larry Michon said. Flights between Alaska's two biggest cities, Anchorage and Fairbanks, were among the many cancelled.

Widespread ash clouds put normal air routes of limits. New tremors at the volcano last night threatened more eruptions which, combined with changing winds, posed new threats to aviation. International flights that refused in Anchorage on over-the-pole trips between Europe and Asia were rerouted.

Pilots reported smelling sulphur and seeing ash clouds, but the KLM crew did not see ash until it was too late and they were in it, Moore said. Ash does not appear on radar. Ash can cause engine failure and abrasion on windshields and wings.

Ash filling the skies over Alaska is from Redoubt volcano, a 10,197-foot (3,108 m) mountain 110 miles (180 km) southwest of Anchorage.

Winds spread ash from yesterday's eruptions northeast over a broad area of southern, central and eastern Alaska to Canada.

ARAB TIMES
Grand Bingo
Mr. Kevin D'Souza has won the Second Full House prize. He will receive KD 60. Game No. 74 continues for the Third Full House prize.

US warns of terrorist attacks

Concern over French discovery of cache of explosives

WASHINGTON, Dec 16. (Agencies): The State Department, concerned about the discovery by French authorities of a large cache of explosives, warned yesterday that terrorists may be planning strikes against holiday travellers and other targets in Europe and Africa.

A State Department official involved in counter-terrorism said no specific targets have been identified.

"Terrorists have chosen to act in the past during the holidays," the official said, mentioning the 1985 assaults on airports in Rome and Vienna and the bombing of a Pan American Airways airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, last year.

"We are not suggesting people change their travel plans," he said, declined to be identified. "But it reflects concern about possible violence by terrorists."

France has increased security measures in public transportation centres and elsewhere because of the discovery last month of more than 440 pounds (200 kg) of explosives in Valencia, Spain, and Marseille, France.

The explosives were believed to have been shipped from Lebanon and have apparently been linked to groups that have protested France's role in seeking to stabilise Lebanon and its prosecution of terrorists.



A member of the air accident investigation branch stands in front of the lower forward port fuselage section of the Pan Am jumbo jet that crashed in Lockerbie, London, last December. (Reuter wirephoto)

PFLP focus of Pan Am probe

EDINBURGH, Dec 16. (AP): Scottish investigators have announced the first public inquiry into the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and said Ahmed Jibril's radical Palestinian group was one focus of their investigation.

But they said no prosecutions were imminent.

Scotland's senior law officer and the policeman in charge of the investigation said investigators also were interested in Mohammed Abu Talb, a member of another radical Palestinian group who is charged in Sweden with four bombings in northern Europe.

But Lord Fraser, the Lord Advocate, and George Eason, chief constable of the Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary, stressed at a news conference that other unidentified groups and individuals were also under investigation in their hunt for the bombers.

"What we are doing in effect is trying to piece together an international terrorist jigsaw," Eason said. "We have some of the pieces, some we are trying to place, and some we have yet to find."

Eason said the police investigation has encompassed 52 countries and Fraser said West Germany, Malta and Sweden have been "the focus of important areas of investigation."

Investigators have said the bomb was made of a plastic explosive packed in a radio-cassette player in a suitcase loaded into forward cargo hold of the Boeing 747. They released photos yesterday showing the reconstruction of the forward hold, with a gaping hole, and the reconstructed metal container which held the suitcase bomb.

Fraser said significant progress had been made in identifying other contents of the suitcase, including clothing.

The Lord Advocate confirmed he requested Swedish permission for Scottish police to remove clothing from Abu Talb's Swedish home, reportedly to compare it with the recovered items.

"I have at present no intention to seek the extradition of Abu Talb," Fraser said.

Eason said: "While I am not trying to minimise that he is of interest to us, there are many others who are in that same category."

He confirmed news reports that the police investigation had focused on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) headed by Jibril.

"It would be right to say that we have focused our attention on one group but it would be unwise for us to exclude others and at the stage of the inquiry we are at, we cannot exclude others," he said.

"Asked whether that group was the PFLP-GC, he said, 'certainly'."

Jibril, a former Syrian army officer, has denied any involvement though he said his faction has used devices like the one that brought down Flight 103.

A US federal judge yesterday temporarily sealed government documents that airline lawyers said could prove the United States knew that Pan Am Flight 103 would be the target of a terrorist attack before a bomb ripped through the plane.

Families of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103 may have to wait years before their multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the airline can go forward, a federal judge indicated.

"It might be a waste of time for us to go through a trial (now), or we'll have to vacate the trial and start all over," chief judge Thomas Platt of US district court in Brooklyn said at a hearing.

Calm after Tamil clash

COLOMBO, Dec 16. (Kuna): After three days of fierce fighting between the Tamil National Army (TNA) and the militant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Batticaloa town, 180 miles west of Colombo in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka has returned to normal, security sources said.

The entire Batticaloa district was under the control of the LTTE elements who could be seen roaming the streets of the town and its environs dressed in camouflage army-type uniforms to tug sophisticated weaponry and walkie-talkies, when a group of pressmen visited Batticaloa yesterday.

The journalists said only a few Sri Lankan policemen could be seen manning checkpoints but hundreds of LTTE cadres have taken over the eastern university building, three floors of the railway station and a few more buildings for their occupation. LTTE cadres also check all vehicles entering the Batticaloa town. These cadres, the journalists said, are not more than 16 years of age.



Berlin fire kills 4

A fire engulfed two buildings on West Berlin's famous Kurfuerstendamm street Saturday, gutting three hotels housed in the buildings and killing at least four people, officials said.

Wolfgang Kubiak, a spokesman for the fire brigade on the scene, said four people had been killed and 28, including four firemen and a policeman aiding in the rescue, were hospitalised. The injured suffered from smoke inhalation, he said.

Dozens of others received first aid on the scene and did not require hospitalisation, Kubiak told reporters.

Kubiak said several hotel guests were unaccounted for early Saturday, and that there was no hope for anyone who had failed to escape before the buildings were gutted.

Kubiak said the three small hotels — the central, Holland and pension am Kurfuerstendamm — in the gutted block had a total of about 200 beds, but officials did not know how many guests were staying at the hotels. Picture shows firemen tackling the blaze. (Reuter wirephoto)

Quake in Philippines

One killed; scattered damage

MANILA, Dec 16. (AP): An earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale shook Mindanao, the central Visayas island chain and the southern tip of the main Luzon island early today, causing scattered damage and at least one death, officials said.

Raymundo Punongbayan, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the quake, which lasted about 40 seconds, was felt throughout Mindanao, the country's second largest island, and as far north as Legaspi city, 640

kilometres (400 miles) away.

Red Cross and government officials had no reports of damage or casualties from the remote area, which has poor communication links to Manila.

In Golden, Colorado, the US Geological Survey said the quake was centred in the Pacific Ocean about 60 kilometres (40 miles) off northeast Mindanao and 255 kilometres (160 miles) from Davao.

Investigator appointed Greece probes deal

ATHENS, Dec 16. (AP): An appeals court judge was appointed yesterday to investigate whether middlemen and military officials received kickbacks in the purchase of 40 French and 40 US jet fighters.

The Council of Appeals Court Judges, by a vote of 164 to 9, appointed Prokopios Makas to investigate the purchase made by former premier Andreas Papandreu's Socialist government.

Charges including breach of faith, breach of duty, and violation of the law on intermediaries could be brought against those

involved in the deal. The council's decision did not identify the people who will be investigated.

The Socialists signed an agreement to buy 40 French Mirage-2000 fighters in July 1985 and 40 US F-16s in January 1987, in what the Greek press called the "purchase of the century."

The conservative New Democracy Party claimed at the time that Greece had paid 223 billion drachmas (\$1.3 billion) above the market value of the warplanes.

The city is 960 kilometres (560 miles) southeast of Manila.

Punongbayan said the institute's observatory station in Bislig, 912 kilometres (570 miles) southeast of here, reported cracks on the walls and slight damage to instruments.

He added that a seven-year-old boy living near the observatory was killed when a concrete wall of his family's house collapsed on him. At least eight houses near the area also reported minor damage. There were reports of widespread power outages in Mindanao, Punongbayan added.

The government's Philippine information agency said an abandoned one-storey building in Davao collapsed during the earthquake, injuring one passerby.

"We are fortunate that the earthquake struck a sparsely populated area," Punongbayan said. "It could have caused serious damage if it had hit a city."

Radio station DZXL in Manila quoted an affiliate station in Bislig as saying residents, fearful of tidal waves, fled their homes for higher ground when the tremor was felt at 2:44 am (1844 GMT Friday).

Radio station DZXL in Manila quoted an affiliate station in Bislig as saying residents, fearful of tidal waves, fled their homes for higher ground when the tremor was felt at 2:44 am (1844 GMT Friday).

Anti-Rushdie day of action

LONDON, Dec 16. (Kuna): Thousands of British Muslims yesterday observed a day of solidarity to protest against Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*.

The day of action included anti-Rushdie sermons, and culminated in a show of hands during Friday prayer gatherings in mosques throughout the UK.

Azi Chishti, general-secretary of the Association of Sunni Muslims and imam of Luton mosque, England, said there was no incitement to murder Rushdie.

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Actress Mangano dies in a coma

MADRID, Dec 16. (AP): Italian actress Silvana Mangano, whose international career spanned 40 years, died early today following cancer-related surgery in a Madrid hospital. A hospital spokeswoman said. She was 59.

The Luz clinic spokeswoman, who asked not to be identified, said the actress died at 2:30 am (0130 GMT) today after several days in a coma.

Her doctor, Antonio Aguado, revealed just two days earlier that Ms. Mangano was "near clinical death" following surgery Dec 4 to replace part of her esophagus with tissue from another organ.

The spokeswoman said Ms. Mangano had suffered for several years from cancer of the mediastinum, the septum that divides the lungs, and entered the Madrid hospital 25 days ago.

During the operation, Ms. Mangano suffered heart failure and fell into the coma, the spokeswoman said.

Mrs. Mangano gained fame in the 1940s and 1950s for her roles in Italian neo-realist films directed by Vittorio de Sica, Mario Monicelli and Luchino Visconti.

For the past four years, Ms. Mangano has divided her time between Rome and in Madrid, where her daughter Francesca, the wife of Spanish producer Jose Antonio Escrivá, lives.

Ms. Mangano's son won fame on an international scale for her role as a sensual, provocative country girl in the 1949 Italian film "Riso Amaro" ("Bitter Rice").

Movie-goers around the world turned out to see the voluptuous actress standing in a paddy wearing a tight sweater, shorts and thigh-high black stockings. The scene has been compared for its sensual quality to the shot of Marilyn Monroe's skirt blowing up to her face in "The Seven Year Itch."

Italian film director Giuseppe de Santis cast her in the part after she had won the Miss Rome beauty contest and began playing small roles in post-World War II Italian films.

In 1949, Ms. Mangano married Italian producer Dino de Laurentis, from whom she separated in 1983.

In her most recent acting roles she played a small part in the 1984 film "Dune" and worked alongside Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni in the 1986 film "Dark Eyes."

The couple had three daughters and a son. The son died in an air crash in Alaska in 1981.

Cat saves master's life

BENWOOD, West Virginia, Dec 16. (AP): An abandoned kitten taken in by a woman last August has returned the favour by alerting the woman to a fire and saving her life.

Mamie Pasden, 78, said she had been sleeping soundly on Sunday when the cat, named Baby, woke her up.

"I remember this kitten started scratching my head and face," Pasden said. "So when I finally opened my eyes I said, 'What's wrong, Baby?'"

"I could see the ceiling was all orange and I thought, 'boy, the sun's out early.'"

AS OF SAT. 16/12/82 AT DRIVE-IN CINEMA

TIMOTHY DALTON AS JAMES BOND 007 IN ACTION FILM LICENCE TO KILL

Nepal king offers to co-operate with Indian govt

KATHMANDU, Dec 16. (UPI): As Nepal's monarch celebrated 29 years during which political parties have been barred from the government, the leader of the banned Nepal Congress Party was yesterday arrested and a court later released him on \$50 bail for a speech in east Nepal during a function to mark human rights day.

The Congress is Nepal's largest opposition party seeking restoration of political parties in the kingdom.

King Birendra, speaking at a rally marking the 29th year since the abolition of multi-party government and its replacement by a partyless system, offered to co-operate with the new government of India which took power last week. India has cut off Nepal's trade since April in a dispute over trade and transit treaties.

The king said the attitude of the new Indian government to Nepal was constructive and his government would respond positively.

The king said he "welcomed the constructive attitude of the new Indian government and my government will lead positive support."

He said Nepal wants friendly relations with all countries on the basis of United Nations principles, non-alignment, Nepal's peace zone concept and the charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation.

Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya has already written to his Indian counterpart proposing talks at the earliest opportunity to solve the nine-month bilateral trade and transit disputes.

CURRENTLY AT CINEMA AL-FIRDAUS AND CINEMA AL-HAMRAA

THE BIGGEST PRODUCTION OF INDIAN CINEMA FOR '89 A SMASH HIT

MAIN AZAAD HOON

INDIA'S MOST POPULAR STAR AMITABH BACHCHAN SHABANA AZMI * ANUPAM KHER

Kuwait National Cinema Co. S.A.K. announces that it has the sole rights of exploitation of the mentioned film in Kuwait (Cinema Video and T.V.)

SHOW TIMES AT AL-FIRDAUS AND AL-HAMRAA CINEMA
1st Show 2-2:30
2nd Show 4-4:30
3rd Show 6-6:30
ONLY AT CINEMA AL-HAMRAA
FRIDAY MORNING SHOW AT 10:00-CLOCK

THIS FILM WILL BE AVAILABLE AT VIDEO FILM SHOP AFTER A MONTH

Monroe gown sells for \$14,300

NEW YORK, Dec 16, (AP): A sequin-encrusted evening dress worn by Marilyn Monroe in the movie "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" commanded \$14,300 at an auction of Hollywood memorabilia yesterday.

The siren-red gown, from the 1953 film classic, was sold to an unidentified buyer at Sotheby's auction house. It had a presale estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000.

The long-sleeve dress sports a high-high slit in the skirt, and a flesh-tone, chiffon, modesty panel over a neckline that plunges to the waist. The unidentified seller also threw in a Life magazine cover showing Miss Monroe in the gown and Jane Russell in an identical one.

A white lace bustier, which Miss Monroe wore under a different gown in the 1960 movie "Let's Make Love," went for \$1,430. And a black bra, of unspecified origin but inscribed with the sex symbol's name, sold for \$605.

The beauty got some competition from a beast: a rubber monster head from the 1954 movie, "The Creature of the Black Lagoon." A Canadian private collector got it for \$5,610 — well above the presale estimate of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

The monster mask, in fetching sea green with red lips, is highlighted by "many gills to the back" and large moles, the auction catalogue notes. When not being worn, it can be displayed in its own clear case.

A Salvador Dali backdrop from Alfred Hitchcock's "Spellbound," valued at \$60,000 to \$80,000, was bought back when it failed to make the undisclosed minimum. So was a navy blue and white checked, cotton pinafore worn by Judy Garland in the "Wizard of Oz," which the auctioneer had hoped would go for \$20,000 to \$25,000.

But an anonymous buyer paid \$6,600 for a leather chapeau worn by Charlton Heston in "Ben Hur," circa 1959. Brown leather forearm covers and a blue, "9-foot (2.7-metre)" cape complete the ensemble.

And W.C. Field's stophat from the 1939 movie, "My Little Chickadee," went for \$3,300 to a private collector — a bargain, below the estimate of \$4,000 to \$6,000.

The Hollywood mementoes were part of Sotheby's annual collector's carousel sale yesterday and today that also includes toys, dolls, animated art, music boxes and baseball memorabilia.

Bush goes Christmas shopping

CAIRO, Dec 16, (UPI): Officials and experts are extremely alarmed that the Sphinx of Giza — one of ancient Egypt's mysteries and wonders — has been deteriorating for years and they vowed to help stop any further crumbling of the gigantic statue of a lion's body with the head of a man.

Leading experts said the left and right sides and the top part of the Sphinx are now "weak" and could fall at any time.

Experts said that the Sphinx's body must be immediately cleared of all

cement injections it had been receiving between 1982 and 1987.

"We reached the point where we had to be courageous in addressing the problem and relieve the Sphinx of all its sufferings," said the head of the Egyptian antiquities organisation, Sayed Tawfik.

"The heavy and big (cement-made) stones have upset the Sphinx state of equilibrium. They must be all taken down and replaced by small ones used in the Graeco-Roman era.

The cement used is the cause of the

catastrophe. In fact, the restoration work done in that (1982-87) period has distorted the aesthetic proportions of the Sphinx.

"We have started taking the necessary scientific steps as of the beginning of the month in full co-operation with Unesco and the American Getty Institute," Tawfik said. "This would certainly take years."

All the large black and white cement-made stones used in this restoration period must be all taken down and replaced by small ones mainly made of

limestone. The use of such big quantities of cement has led to the rejection and fall of the Sphinx stones, the experts said.

Carved from solid rock, the Sphinx of Giza is 66 ft (20 m) high and the full length of the lion's body is 240 ft (72 m). It faces east to the rising sun in protection of the great pyramids.

The Sphinx was the guardian of the Western passages through which the sun and the dead were believed to disappear, and protector of the great pyramids for thousands of years.

Experts at Egypt's state-owned antiquities organisation said a programme is underway to strengthen the weak areas as part of an overall face-lifting operation that will take at least five years to complete.

Prime Minister Atef Sidki Thursday inspected the soft spots at the neck and shoulder of the 4,600-year-old Sphinx. Sidki also inspected the deteriorating left side of the statue's body.

The Sphinx of Giza, whose face is believed to be a likeness of King Che-

phren, is the largest and one of the oldest of an avenue of Sphinxes leading to the temples in Karank at Luxor in southern Egypt.

Chephren was the fourth king of ancient Egypt's IV dynasty, around 2600 BC. The great Sphinx, or Sphinx of Giza, was undoubtedly the work of his sculptors.

Chephren was the son or brother of Cheops and the builder of the second pyramid at Giza which is 143 metres high with sides 215 metres long.



Bush goes Christmas shopping

President George Bush looks at a potential gift Dec 14 as he does his Christmas shopping. The President also turned on the light to the National

Christmas tree later in the day during a Christmas ceremony.

Common visa for Europe

ATHENS, Greece: Air pollution soared to dangerous levels in Athens on Friday, prompting the government to ban half the capital's cars from downtown and order industries to limit their use of fuel.

The national first aid centre reported that by 6pm (1600 GMT) Friday, 79 people had been hospitalised due to the air conditions — 44 people with heart problems exacerbated by the smog, 18 with respiratory problems and 17 who suffered from asthma.

The Environment Ministry banned private motor vehicles with license plates ending in odd numbers from the Athens area between 8pm Friday and 8pm Saturday. (AP).



Michael J. Fox

LOS ANGELES: A woman accused of sending nearly 6,000 threatening letters to film star Michael J. Fox, was ordered on Friday to undergo psychiatric counselling and to stay away from the actor.

Shipping clerk Tina Ledbetter, 27, who spent 10 months in jail awaiting sentencing, was also placed on probation for three years.

Fox, a star of the "Back To The Future" films who had earlier appeared in the television series "Family Ties," agreed with the sentence and hoped Ledbetter had been rehabilitated during her time in jail, the prosecutor, deputy district attorney Susan Gruber, told reporters.

"Tina would have made her more violent. She has shown no violence so far," Gruber said.

Hospitals receiving threats

'Kill baby boys'

MONTREAL, Dec 16, (Reuters): Hospitals in Montreal have tightened security since last week's shooting of 14 women at the University of Montreal by a crazed gunman who blamed "feminists" for running his life.

Montreal police are visiting hospitals to advise on ways they can increase security, constable Lisa Frenk-Watson said. "We always take threats, especially death threats, seriously," she said.

Police said the letter read: "We ought to kill all the baby boys of your nursery. They should never get a chance to grow up to be men and never hurt a woman again."

The letter was signed, "a real female."

The December 6 shooting has sparked an angry debate over violence against women in Canada, with feminist organisations arguing that the massacre was an extension of what some women suffer daily at the hands of men.

The gunman, 25-year-old Marc Lepine, screamed he hated feminists before he murdered the women. He later turned the gun on himself.

Common visa for Europe

PARIS, Dec 16, (Reuters): European Economic Community members agreed yesterday to work towards a common visa in a post-1992 United Europe and to harmonise immigration policies.

EEC members might allow a visa issued by one member state to be recognised by other EEC members, preventing travellers having to go through tedious formalities. EEC interior ministers said in a statement after a two-day meeting.

"We are also examining the possibility of introducing in the longer term a common visa valid in all member states," to ease travel for foreigners within the 12-nation community, they said.

But reflecting concerns among EEC members over immigration, the ministers reaffirmed "that states have the right and duty to combat illegal immigration in their respective territories and in the territory of the twelve as a whole."

The ministers also agreed to seek a common policy over asylum, mainly to prevent the passing of refugee seekers from one state to the other and to stop people submitting several asylum applications in different countries.

"We therefore feel that in each case a single member state should be appointed to examine the application for asylum on the strength of objectively defined criteria," the ministers said.

The issues of immigration and asylum have sparked debate in EEC member states, notably France.

While the ministers were in harmony, five EEC countries found it difficult to sign a landmark treaty to scrap border controls.

West Germany on Thursday suddenly backed off from signing the treaty with Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Luxembourg.

Some government sources said Members of Parliament urged Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition not to sign because they feared the pact would not allow East Germans the same access to the five EEC states as West Germans would enjoy.

The Schengen Treaty, named after a Luxembourg town where borders with France and West Germany converge, has become a test case for abolishing borders right across the community after 1992.

Buchwald sues film producers

LOS ANGELES, Dec 16, (Reuters): Paramount Pictures knew a film idea comedian Eddie Murphy brought to the studio was based on a plot by columnist Art Buchwald but ignored a contract with Buchwald to please the actor, a lawyer said yesterday.

"What Eddie wants, Eddie gets," the lawyer, Pierce O'Donnell, representing Buchwald, told a jury at the trial of a \$5 million lawsuit brought by the columnist against Paramount, producers of "Coming to America."

O'Donnell said the box office hit, starring Murphy and Arsenio Hall, a comedian and talk-show host, was inspired and based on what Buchwald wrote in 1983. Murphy played an African prince and found a wife.

He told superior court Judge Schneider in depositions he had seen Buchwald's work, entitled "King For a Day," and could not rule out it had influenced his thinking when he came up with the idea of "Coming to America."

Paramount ignored a contract with Buchwald to please Murphy, whose films have earned more than \$1 billion, O'Donnell said.

A lawyer for Paramount, Robert Draper, said Buchwald's treatment could not be written into a good script and the ideas Murphy brought to Paramount executives was different.

UN adopts accord aimed at abolition of death penalty

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 16, (Reuters): The General Assembly yesterday adopted and opened for signature an accord aimed at abolishing the death penalty world-wide.

A resolution containing the accord, originally endorsed by the assembly's social committee, was passed by 59 votes to 26, with 48 abstentions.

Called the second optional protocol to the international covenant on civil and political rights, it provides that no one within the jurisdiction of a signatory state shall be

executed.

It also says each state party shall take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty.

The only exception permitted is if a state, when ratifying the protocol, makes a reservation providing for the death penalty "in time of war pursuant to a conviction for a most serious crime of a military nature committed during wartime."

The protocol will enter into force after being ratified by 10 countries.

The Soviet Union, Britain and France were among those voting in favour while the United States, China, Japan and many Islamic countries voted against.

Several Islamic countries told the committee that abolition of capital punishment was against their religious principles because it disregarded the rights of criminals' victims.

China said it opposed the resolution because for a long time to come it would be impossible to abolish the death penalty throughout the world.

Off-beat Xmas presents

LOS ANGELES, Dec 16, (AP): If you don't have a lot of money and you're looking for offbeat Christmas gifts, you can give velvet-wrapped chunks of the Berlin Wall.

But that won't cut it if you're a conspicuous consumption capitalist in what is arguably the trendiest, wackiest place in the world — Southern California. If you want to raise eyebrows here, it will take some doing.

How about a gift with spirit? One pricey shop is offering angels share fine Scotch whiskey in an etched baccarat crystal decanter. The price: just \$8,650 a bottle.

One buyer was Dan Marcheano, owner of the Arches Restaurant in Newport Beach, California.

"We aren't cracking that sucker open right now, I'll tell you that. I'm not about to say, 'would you like a \$60 shot of whiskey?'" said Marcheano, who put the precious elixir in a lighted display case.

The car culture dictates the wish-list for fast-lane crazies, and Beverly Hills motoring accessories provides drive-time necessities for those on the fast track. There's a \$1,200 car fax machine, a \$2,100 Recardo leather seat, and \$100 monogrammed floor mats.

For the kid who has almost everything, there's a half-scale Ferrari Testarossa that reaches a maximum speed of 30 miles (48 kilometres) per hour. It goes out the door for \$15,000 and some change, and boasts a trunk to store the youngster's Nintendo video games.

Youngsters accustomed to getting everything on a platinum platter can join their socially correct pals in winter fun with a minimum of strain.

The Hammacher Schlemmer catalogue offers a \$20, hands-free snowball maker that "helps eliminate wet gloves and cold hands for safer, more comfortable winter fun."

An airborne holiday captures the imagination of some. Heli-La promises an evening to remember for \$189, which includes a stretch limousine, candlelight

Change of heart

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas, Dec 16, (AP): A thief who ransacked a house, raided the refrigerator, unwrapped about 40 Christmas presents and made off with some of the gifts apparently had a change of heart.

The thief returned the packages the next day with about \$5 in change and this note:

"Please forgive me. Here are your belongings and some money to fix the window. It may not be enough, but I'll keep bringing some until I pay you back fully. I'm very sorry. Please accept my apology and please don't send me away."

Pam Shigley, 31, said the presents were found Thursday on her porch by her 10-year-old daughter, Kim, with about \$5 in nickels and dimes. Mrs Shigley said the money probably came from a change jar that the thief spilled in the house the day before.

The presents were in their original boxes. "I was amazed. My heart was broken when they all got stolen," she said. "When they came back, I thought, 'Jesus, people really do have a conscience.'"

Mrs Shigley said she may return the favour. "I thought of leaving a note out there to wish him a Merry Christmas and thank him for having a conscience, and I've even thought of leaving a small gift out there for him."

dinner and a helicopter flight along the coast and Beverly Hills. Celebrities such as Hollywood's Dan Aykroyd, James Coburn and Heather Locklear are among those who have enjoyed a \$500-per-couple evening presented by Amy Tunick and Matthew Sarver.

A Swedish massage kicks off the four-hour evening, which includes a gourmet feast.

"It's right in step with the trend toward cocooning," said Tunick, referring to the decision by many upscale couples to pamper themselves at home — their "cocoon" — rather than going out to restaurants, theatres or nightclubs.

There are \$1,500 embroidered shawls at Federico in Santa Monica, and Pasadena's Belladonna boutique offers \$298 bronze sequin jackets that promise to "dazzle her into the 1990s."

The holiday buying binge doesn't overlook the age of glassnost. A Soviet match for \$100 is offered in Spiegel's catalogue of "Last Minute Holiday Gift Ideas." The mail-order booklet also features a \$2,950 Lindbergh Longines watch.

A \$5,200 reversible mink and

black leather blouson jacket was the rage at the Beverly Hills Mr Guy Store on Snoopy Rodeo drive. And the Soviet theme returns with a \$1,050, angora and wool blend Russian-style overcoat.

For those who want a gift that keeps on giving, Los Angeles-based Revenge a La Carte may offer a solution. For about \$30, Allen Pool put a victim's name on the mailing lists of 20 religious organisations.

Or, for the same price, he'll deliver a voodoo doll, dead flowers or a rotting fish to the doorstep.

And for \$150, he'll even arrange for a pregnant woman to crash a wedding reception and tell the groom: "Don't pretend you don't know me."

Millions of American television viewers may have thought they were seeing president Ronald Reagan light the national Christmas tree each year, but it appears the tree he pressed was a fake.

Cable News Network television reported that the tree, opposite the White House, was actually lit by a discreet attendant from the party service.

US Army denies medal to Jewish soldier

WASHINGTON, Dec 16, (AP): A US Army board has refused to grant the medal of honour to a World War II veteran who colleagues claimed was passed over for decoration because he was Jewish, an army official, Lieut Col Terry Adkins, said yesterday.

David S. Rubitsky, then an army sergeant, had been recommended for the medal by company and battalion commanders. They cited a battle in the jungles of New Guinea in which he was said to have killed more than 500 Japanese soldiers.

Adkins said an "exhaustive" two-year investigation into Rubitsky's claims showed the battle "did not occur as alleged."

As for the claim that Rubitsky was denied the medal because of anti-Semitism, he said, "I could not find any basis of fact in this."

Rubitsky, who lives in Wisconsin, was notified on Thursday night of the decision and the army presented its findings to Congress yesterday, Adkins said.

The army's decision was first reported yesterday by the New York Times.

Board officials said the lack of official records, the death of witnesses and the fading memories of those who survived the campaign thwarted their review.

But the toughest obstacle was the implausibility that one soldier armed with a machine-gun, automatic rifle and a carbine — could inflict such damage singlehandedly.

They said Rubitsky would have needed large amounts of ammunition and would have been able to fire only one weapon while the Japanese returned his fire, forcing him to keep his head down and shoot without taking him.

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Study on cause of global warming

NEW YORK, Dec 16, (AP): Observations from space and ocean surface confirm a key assumption of computer projections that predict global warming through the greenhouse effect, a study says.

The analysis presents "compelling evidence" for existence of a natural process that amplifies the atmospheric warming caused by other factors, the authors wrote.

It also found that the greenhouse effect was stronger than expected over the warm waters of the tropical western Pacific Ocean, co-author Veerabhadran Ramanathan of the University of Chicago said.

If this "supper greenhouse effect" occurs in that area because the water has surpassed some threshold temperature, the earth's overall warming may accelerate as more of its water warms beyond that temperature, he said.

The observation is "definitely a cause for concern," he said. But its cause is not known, and its potential implications for global warming cannot yet be defined, he added.

The greenhouse effect describes the atmosphere's trapping of some energy radiating from earth, rather than letting it all escape into space. With buildup of certain gases in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide, more energy is trapped, resulting in a global warming of climate.

Ramanathan said results of the new study are consistent with predictions that a doubling in atmospheric carbon dioxide will lead to a warming of about 4 degrees Fahrenheit (2.2 degrees Celsius).

He and graduate student Ameet Raval present the work in the latest issue of the British journal Nature.

They measured the amount of trapped energy by comparing sea surface temperatures to the amount of energy escaping into space, as measured by satellites. The readings were taken during 1985 and 1986.

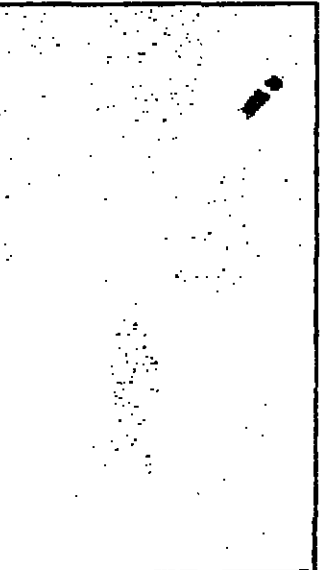
They found that the higher the sea temperature, the more energy was trapped in the atmosphere above.

Analysis gave evidence for a natural process that would amplify an initial warming. The idea is that as the sea surface and air get warmer, the atmosphere accumulates more water vapour. The extra vapour traps more energy radiating from the earth, leading to further atmospheric warming.

The Nature paper is the first "really decent" demonstration of this process, commented Robert Cess of the state University of New York at Stony Brook, who wrote an accompanying editorial.

An international conference on the environment will be held in Washington on April 29-May 2 bringing together legislators from 33 nations, a group of US senators said.

The conference will discuss such issues as global climate changes, development, deforestation, depletion of the ozone layer and population growth. Senator Albert Gore, a Tennessee Democrat who is chairman of the US delegation, said.



Fourth launch

The crew of a nuclear-powered submarine launched its third Trident 2 missile in less than two weeks Friday, sending an unarmed warhead far down the Atlantic tracking range, the US navy reported.

The success was the fourth in six consecutive firings of the Trident 2. Three more such tests are planned, leading to operational deployment of the weapon in March.

Greenpeace anti-nuclear activists were not on the scene Friday as the Tennessee unleashed the 44-foot (13 metre), \$265-million missile, the navy's newest weapon.

The navy reported the success of Friday's launch 10 minutes after the 9:15 am (1415 GMT) firing, which took place in the Atlantic about 50 miles (80 kilometres) offshore. (Reuters wirephoto)

Upheavals, changes likely

Latam warned

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec 16, (AP): Latin America will enter the century's last decade still gripped in a vicious financial circle likely to result in more social upheaval and political changes across the continent, a regional organisation warned Latin American governments on a report disclosed.

As the 80s draw to a close, Latin Americans are 10 per cent poorer than they were at the beginning of the decade in per capita terms, according to the Latin American Economic System (Sela), the Caracas-based, 26-nation member institution that monitors regional economic problems.

This collapse constitutes "a certain threat to the democratic system and social peace in Latin America," the study says.

The report was distributed this week among Latin American governments and will be discussed during a foreign debt conference to be held in Caracas next

year. The report says that the economic adjustment programmes adopted by most Latin American nations have not solved the problems created by the region's massive \$443 billion foreign debt. On the contrary, the study says, they have given way to social and political tensions across the continent. Sooner or later it could result in a democratic election of political leaders not willing to keep those programmes up, it says.

This prediction is already a reality in countries where economic hardships have led to the insurrection of new leaders not committed to the traditional political establishment.

In Venezuela's Dec 3 state elections union leader Andres Velazquez was elected governor of the industrial state of Bolivar.



Noriega shows the resolution issued by the Panamanian National Assembly. (Reuters wirephoto)

Noriega grabs wide powers

Panama in state of war

PANAMA CITY, Dec 16, (Reuters): The national assembly has formalised General Manuel Antonio Noriega's role as leader of Panama to confront what it called US aggression, declaring the country was in a state of war with the United States.

The 510-member assembly yesterday unanimously granted Noriega wide powers to appoint government officials and direct foreign affairs and voted to "declare that the republic of Panama is in a state of war" so long as the United States continues its policy of aggression.

The declaration made no mention of what actions Panama might take against the United States, which has a large military presence in Panama, and Noriega made no mention of a war with the United States in a speech to the assembly.

"I will use the powers you have granted me in a judicious way," said Noriega, a former ally of the United States who has been indicted in US courts on drug trafficking and other charges.

US President George Bush's administration, which wants Noriega removed and does not recognise the current government, said the assembly action was "another hollow step in an attempt to force his (Noriega's) rule on the Panamanian people."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater also said US troops in Panama, which number about 12,000, had not changed their alert status because of the declaration.

Former Commerce Minister Mario Rognoni said the United States has conducted a war against the Panamanian people

in its efforts to oust Noriega. The declaration "establishes a known fact," he said.

The United States has imposed a series of tough economic sanctions against Panama in its effort to remove Noriega following the annulment of elections in May after the opposition claimed victory.

The sanctions "have produced unemployment for thousands and added notably to the poverty of the country but they (the United States) have hit against the steel will of a people," Noriega said.

As "maximum leader of the struggle for national liberation," Noriega assumes powers and a title similar to those of Panama's popular leader during the 1970s, General Omar Torrijos, who died in a plane crash in 1981.

In addition to appointing ministers and vice ministers, he will have the power to convene the council of state, the country's highest executive body, the cabinet and the assembly.

In his speech, Noriega also accused the United States of violating the 1977 Panama Canal treaties.

American troops have staged military exercises in the canal area this year to reassert US rights under the treaties. But Panama had charged the exercises, which political observers say are designed to put pressure on Noriega, are in violation of the treaties.

The Panamanian opposition contends that Noriega's appointment as chief executive is just another effort to perpetuate his dictatorship.

Salvador church rejects charges

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 16, (UPI): A Catholic bishop rejected accusations made by the Salvadoran attorney-general's office that top church officials were interfering with the government's investigation into the brutal killing of six Jesuit priests.

Meanwhile, leftist rebels let a deadline slip by Friday that the government had set for reaching an agreement on future peace talks.

"Everyone knows ... of our great desire that there be truth and justice in the case of the Jesuits," auxiliary bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez told reporters.

The church's human rights office, Tutela Legal, has carried out a parallel investigation into the case and has blamed the Nov 16 slayings of the six Jesuit priests on the Salvadoran military.

In a press release published in San Salvador newspapers yesterday, the attorney-general's office challenged the church's conclusions and accused Rosa Chavez, Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas and Tutela Legal Director Maria Julia Hernandez of "trying to obstruct the advance of justice."

The six priests were among El Salvador's top liberal intellectuals.

Rosa Chavez said that Rivera Damas called last Sunday for Attorney-General Mauricio Colorado "to do his job" and investigate the deaths of the six priests, who were considered among El Salvador's top liberal intellectuals.

However, Rivera Damas said the church did not want to get involved in a conflict with the attorney-general's office.

Meanwhile, presidential spokesman Mauricio Sandoval said the government had received no response by midday to its proposal to hold peace talks.

"Up to now, we have not heard anything," Sandoval said.

Last week, President Alfredo Cristiani said his government was willing to resume peace talks with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, if the rebels would first cease all military action that "directly or indirectly affects the civilian population."

Under the proposal, representatives of the government and the FMLN would meet in Caracas, Venezuela on Dec 20. Cristiani said the rebels would have to make their announcement by Dec 15 to allow a five-day period for them to prove they were willing to stand by their word and halt civilian attacks.

Salvadoran authorities yesterday announced the capture of an important guerrilla leader as new fighting broke out between government troops and leftist rebels.

An army spokesman said police had captured guerrilla commander Carlos Morales Carbonell in the capital, San Salvador, last Sunday. Under a month-old state of siege, the police can hold suspects for up to 15 days without announcing their detention.

Carbonell, 30, is the son of Antonio Morales Ehrlich, a former secretary-general of the opposition centrist Christian Democrat Party.

Known as "Commander Tato" or "Commander William," Carbonell has been a guerrilla for more than a decade and is a leader of the Popular Liberation Forces, one of the five groups which make up the FMLN.



Rallying for loved ones

A Chilean anti-riot policeman tries to stop a woman, relative of a political prisoner, during a rally in Santiago. Relatives of Chilean political prisoners

demand the release of their loved ones. (Reuters wirephoto)

Autopsies to include Aids test

International scientists have devised a test to simplify autopsies to include Aids test. The test will be routinely performed as part of all autopsies in New York city, and the information will be used to warn contacts of the deceased who may be at risk, health officials said Friday.

They emphasised that the identities of all bodies that test positive for the Aids virus will be kept confidential, as required by a state law. The law means the city medical examiner's office, which performs autopsies on many corpses, will not report names of Aids-positive corpses to the city health department.

Alzheimer detection made simple: International scientists have devised a test to simplify autopsies to include Aids test. The test will be routinely performed as part of all autopsies in New York city, and the information will be used to warn contacts of the deceased who may be at risk, health officials said Friday.

The results of a project between Britain, the Netherlands and Sweden will be announced today, the Times newspaper said.

The test picks up fragments of "tangles," or symptoms of the disease, caused by lesions to brain tissues. Special antibodies are used in the test to distinguish between healthy patients, who have no such particles in the spinal fluid, and people with the disease, who do. (Kuna)



Lama receives Lapp cup

The Dalai Lama, self-exiled leader of the Tibetan people, receives a traditional Lapp wooden cup from the leader of the Lapp Assembly Ole Henrik Magga in northern Norway. The Dalai Lama received the Nobel Peace prize this year. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rush for jobs

More than 25,000 Muscovites have swamped the Soviet capital's first McDonald's American hamburger restaurant with job applications, a restaurant spokesman has said.

More than 1,000 applications for the 630 crew spots flooded in the first day after an advertisement was placed in a Moscow newspaper and hundreds are still trickling in a month later, said Ram Langan, director of McDonald's Moscow operations. Part-time Soviet workers at the New McDonald's will earn about 1.5 rubles per hour, Langan said. That translates to about \$2.50 according to a new tourist rate. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ballerina dies at 73: Leda Anchutina Eglevsky, a Russian ballerina who danced with the first American ballet company of George Balanchine and other dance companies in the 1930s, has died. She was believed to be 73.

Ms Anchutina was found dead Friday at her home in Massapequa, New York, of causes that were not immediately determined.

She was the director of the Eglevsky Ballet, founded in 1961 by her husband, Andre Eglevsky. Born in the Siberian City of Irkutsk, Ms Anchutina came to the United States at an early age and studied with Michel Fokine. She performed in several works of the School of American Ballet, including "Serenade," when it was founded in 1934 by Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein. (AP)

Jetfoil smashes into pier: A jetfoil smashed into a pier in Hong Kong on Friday after hitting several sampans, killing one person and injuring 18 others, police reported.

The accident occurred when the ferry was returning empty to dock in Hong Kong harbour after a trip to the neighbouring Portuguese Colony of Macao, police said.

The ferry hit the pier with such force that the bow of the vessel ran ashore, police said.

The injured were taken to a hospital but their condition was not known. Police said a 53-year-old man died, and another was reported missing in the incident. (AP)

Emergency landing, none hurt: A French military aircraft made an emergency landing on Friday after taking Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement to northeastern France, but no one was hurt, military sources said.

The Mystere-20 developed engine trouble shortly after taking off from Moulins-Merle airport where the minister had disembarked, they said.

It returned to the airport to make an emergency landing but overshot the runway and crashed to a halt, sustaining some damage.

The sources said a military inquiry was under way. (Reuters)

Heroin found inside live calf: Vets inspecting a calf before slaughter found a kg (two pounds) of heroin in a container in its stomach, police said on Friday.

A slaughterhouse in this village 20 km (12 miles) east of Naples bought the calf, apparently in good faith, at a large livestock market outside the city, they said.

The animal had probably been used in a mafia attempt to smuggle the heroin into Italy and had been sold by mistake, the police said. They said the calf came from northern Europe but refused further details while investigations continued. (Reuters)

Klan cancels weekend rally: Bad weather Friday forced the Ku Klux Klan to cancel a march set for Saturday to protest the suspensions of two boys who wore Klan robes to high school for Halloween and shouted racial slurs.

The Klan is a white-supremacy organisation that sprang up in the aftermath of the defeat of the slaveholding southern states in the US civil war of the 1860s. The modern Klan and its offshoots are small, but vocal, fringe groups.

Halloween, or All Saint's Day, is celebrated in the United States the night before with masquerading. (AP)

Nasa again delays launch: The pre-Christmas launch of Space Shuttle Columbia on a satellite rescue mission has been delayed one more day until Dec 21, Nasa announced Friday.

The latest schedule change came just two days after shuttle managers decided on a two-day postponement because work at the launch pad was behind schedule.

The new liftoff time is 6:04 pm (2304 GMT), with the launch period lasting 44 minutes.

Aylwin vows to exert full authority

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec 16, (AP): President-elect Patricio Aylwin said yesterday he will exert his authority over the military and Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who intends to retain command of the army when he leaves the presidency on March 11.

Aylwin said he would meet with the military service commanders, who have ruled Chile since a 1973 coup in order to establish a working relationship.

Scattered disturbances broke out yesterday in downtown Santiago. Groups of young leftists threw rocks at police, who responded with water cannon and tear gas. Skirmishes scattered shoppers and halted traffic several times on the principal boulevard, Alameda Avenue.

The protesters demanded immediate release of leftists imprisoned on charges of political violence, including many accused of guerrilla activity. Police reported at least 20 arrests.

Aylwin soundly defeated two opponents in Thursday's election. At a news conference, he pledged to "exercise the full powers of the president, and the armed forces must be subordinate and obedient to the president."

His comment went to the heart of one of the new civilian government's most difficult and sensitive problems: the considerable power that still will be held by the armed service commanders, particularly Pinochet as head of the 60,000-man army.

A special provision of the constitution Pinochet's government wrote in 1980 says the commanders cannot be dismissed until 1998.

Aylwin, 71, won 55.2 of the 7 million votes cast Thursday, as the candidate of a 17-party alliance of the centre and left. Hernan Buchi, the pro-government candidate, got 29.4 per cent and Francisco Javier Errazuriz, a wealthy entrepreneur, 15.4 per cent.

In Brussels, the European Community hailed Aylwin's victory as "the return of a great and friendly country ... to the path of freedom."

Lawrence Eagleburger, US deputy secretary of state, said in Washington: "We are enthused ... that (the elections) were free and fair. We are very, very pleased that Chile has returned to democracy."

At his news conference, Aylwin said: "Chile is effectively moving back to democracy. There will be no puppet democracy, and there will be no extra-democratic control over my government."

He said he would talk with military leaders "as soon as circumstances permit."

Under the new government, the military will have a majority on a National Security Council empowered to "represent" its views to the government. In addition, a bill now being discussed by Pinochet's junta would give the armed forces substantial autonomy under the civilian leadership.

Aylwin expressed confidence that "a reasonable formula" could be found, but declared: "Nothing will prevent me from fully exercising the presidential powers."

One of the most delicate issues in future military-civilian relations is expected to be how Aylwin handles the investigation of human rights abuses under the Pinochet government.

"We don't have a wish of revenge, but of truth and justice," Aylwin said. He also said anyone who committed abuses may be brought to justice, including Pinochet.

The 74-year-old general says he will not accept human rights trials of military men and has issued a warning: "If one of my men is touched, the state of law will be broken."

After toppling President Salvador Allende, an elected Marxist who died during the coup, the military embarked on severe repression of leftists who had supported him. Thousands were arrested, many tortured or killed and others forced into exile.



Aylwin: winner

CP 120 150

Drug lord killed in shootout

Colombia braces up for backlash, army on alert

BOGOTA, Dec 16, (AP): Colombian police braced for a violent backlash after they killed Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, one of the country's most powerful cocaine barons, in a shootout.

The head of the country's investigative police, Miguel Maza Marquez, said Rodriguez Gacha's death was "a splendid Christmas present," but that the war against Colombia's cocaine smuggling cartels was far from won.

Maza said that terrorism by traffickers could increase as a result of Rodriguez Gacha's death. The government placed the army on alert late yesterday the radio group Caracol reported.

Unidentified gunman shot and killed a police lieutenant in Medellin just hours after

Rodriguez Gacha's killing, the RCN radio network reported. RCN said it was not known if the killing of the officer was related to the government's struggle with traffickers.

Rodriguez Gacha, his 17-year-old son, Fredy, and five bodyguards were slain in a gun battle 360 miles (850 kms) north of Bogota on a ranch owned by Pablo Escobar, the reputed godfather of Colombia's multi-billion-dollar drug empire, national police chief Miguel Gomez Padilla said at a news conference.

Rodriguez Gacha was believed to be the No 2 man in Escobar's organisation, which is known as the Medellin cartel because it is based in the Colombian city of the same name.

Fredy Rodriguez had been arrested in August after a raid on rural property belonging to his father, but was recently released after a judge ruled police did not have enough evidence to hold him.

The New York Times, a leading US newspaper, reported that police sources said the son's release was part of a plan to lure the elder Rodriguez into a trap.

Quoting the unidentified police sources, the Times reported that after the younger Rodriguez was released, Colombian police trailed him until he led them to the rural hideout near the city of Cartagena where he and his father were killed in the shootout yesterday.

Maza told the news conference in Bogota that troops from a half dozen security forces, including an elite police division and the marines, participated in the operation that led to Rodriguez Gacha's death.

"The operation to locate Rodriguez Gacha was an intelligence operation of great care," Gen. Carlos Arturo Casadiego, assistant director of the national police, said in an interview with Caracol.

Rodriguez Gacha and Escobar have been the objects of manhunts by US and Colombian authorities since President Virgilio Barco ordered a crackdown on drug traffickers after a leading presidential candidate was slain Aug 18. Both were on the list of a dozen Colombian drug traffickers the US Justice Department has announced it most wants to prosecute.

US President George Bush called Barco yesterday to congratulate him and the country's security forces for eliminating Rodriguez Gacha.

Maza said telephone switchboards at police stations and the presidential palace were jammed with congratulatory calls from supporters of the government in its struggle against drug traffickers.

The government had offered \$581,000 for information leading to the capture of either Rodriguez Gacha or Escobar. It was not known whether information by a person seeking the reward led police to Rodriguez Gacha's hideout yesterday.

The Senate has effectively killed a proposed referendum that would have allowed Colombians to decide whether the government should continue extraditing drug traffickers to the United States.



Members of the Colombian anti-drug national police force during a training exercise in Bogota. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bogota dealer indicted

NEW YORK, Dec 16, (UPI): A suspected Colombian drug trafficker extradited to New York from Bogota was arraigned yesterday on conspiracy and other charges for allegedly importing hundreds of pounds (kilos) of cocaine to the United States.

Nelson Cuevas Ramirez, the 10th Colombian to be extradited to the United States since August when Colombian President Virgilio Barco began his campaign against drug trafficking, arrived in New York aboard a marshals service jet early yesterday.

The silver-haired suspected drug trafficker, speaking through a translator, pleaded innocent to the charges at his arraignment later yesterday in Manhattan Federal Court before US magistrate Naomi Buchwald.

Ramirez was the first extradition since a bomb killed dozens of people in front of the Colombian national police headquarters last week.

The bombing was one of scores in recent months attributed to drug cartels waging a violent campaign against the extraditions.

Ramirez, 55, indicted two months ago in Manhattan with three other suspected drug traffickers, was turned over by Colombian authorities to a team of the marshals service special operations group Thursday night in Bogota.

From rags to riches

Gacha was No. 2 in drug cartel

BOGOTA, Dec 16, (Reuter): Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, killed yesterday in a shootout with police, rose from poverty to become number two in the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel and was one of Colombia's most wanted men.

Accused by police of being behind some of the worst drug-related violence, Rodriguez Gacha, 42 — alias "The Mexican" — died on Friday in a shootout with elite police commandos at a ranch near Tolu on the Caribbean coast 370 miles (590 km) north of Bogota.

Rodriguez Gacha was the number two man in the Medellin cartel, although other narcotics experts rated him number three.

He was accused of murdering Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla and leftist presidential candidate Jaime Pardo Leal.

"If one had to put the cocaine barons on a scale of danger, Rodriguez Gacha would be at one end as the most dangerous while the Cali cartel would be at the other," said a lawyer and academic who specialises in narcotics.

The Cali cartel rivals the Medellin organisation. Between them they control more than 80 per cent of the world's cocaine production and smuggling, US officials say.

Like other Medellin leaders, Rodriguez Gacha described himself as a benefactor and a patriot and said he wanted to invest his wealth in the country.

He said in a television



Rodriguez Gacha: number two.

interview several years ago that he was a major investor in Bogota's star soccer team, the Millonarios.

He was also known to share a passion with other Medellin leaders for breeding and raising showhorses. One horse even had a stable built like a house with its trophies lining the walls.

His holdings included more than 65 companies in Colombia uncovered in swoops since August 18 when the government

of President Virgilio Barco launched an anti-narcotics sweep.

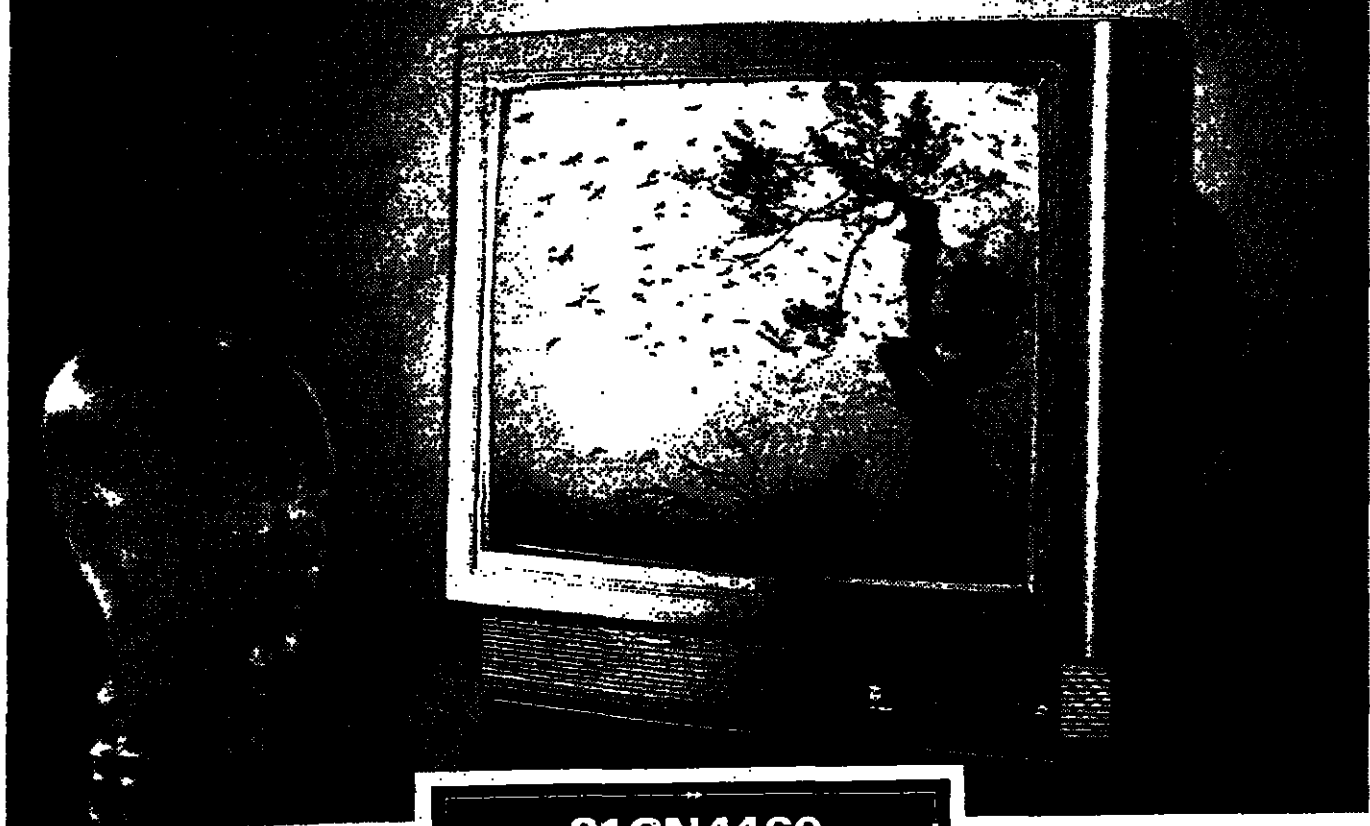
Some of the information seized in raids in the Bogota area led authorities on a trail that froze \$61 million of his assets abroad in five countries, including Britain and Luxembourg, US authorities said.

Known as "The Mexican" because of his fascination with popular Mexican culture, Rodriguez Gacha was the only one of the Medellin cartel leaders who did not come from the city.



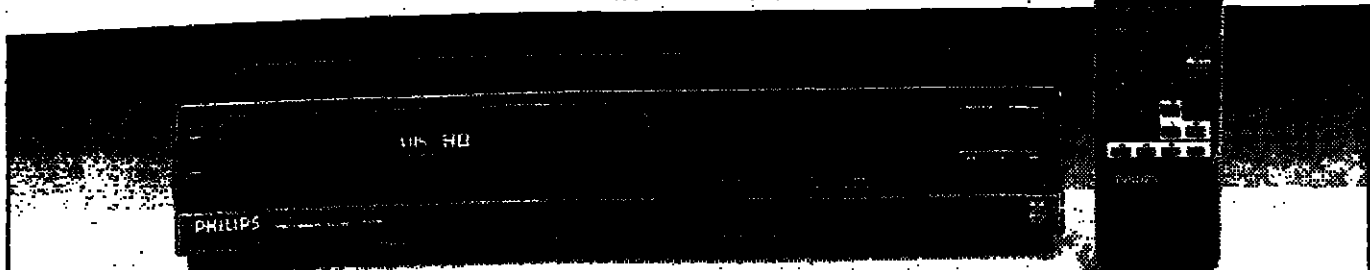
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Freedom for activists

The nation's high court on Friday threw out convictions imposed in the country's longest treason trial and freed five black activists, including three prominent anti-apartheid leaders jailed since 1985. Scores of jubilant supporters, including Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, welcomed the men as they passed through Cape Town's airport en route from Robben Island prison to their homes near Johannesburg.



"It's a sign we are winning the struggle," said Tutu (left). "We knew that justice would prevail one day."

The three leaders of the United Democratic Front and one of their co-defendants, a church worker, were convicted of treason in November 1989 after a controversial three-year trial. Hundreds of chanting well-wishers greeted the

five at Johannesburg's airport. Police used guard dogs to control the crowd, confiscated banners, and seized film from at least two news photographers.

Picture left shows UDF leader Moses Chikane being carried on the shoulder of fellow comrades. Left: Tutu welcoming the freed activist. (Reuters wirephoto)

SA gets Maputo backing

MAPUTO, Dec 16, (AP): South African President F.W. de Klerk received a qualified endorsement for his domestic reforms yesterday during a visit to Mozambique in his ongoing efforts to build bridges to black Africa.

De Klerk and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano talked for more than five hours, focusing on resolving Mozambique's 12-year-old civil war and improving economic and political co-operation between the once-hostile neighbours.

The South African leader told reporters afterward that his government is abiding by a 1984 agreement prohibiting aid to the Mozambique National Resistance, a right-leaning rebel group fighting Chissano's leftist government.

However, de Klerk conceded private assistance from South Africa may be reaching the rebels, who have devastated Mozambique with a nationwide hit-and-run insurgency.

"I cannot give a categorical undertaking that nothing happens from private sources inside South Africa," de Klerk said. "But I give the assurance that we are against that and will take whatever reasonable steps we can."

Tanzania Tanzanian President Ali Haj Ali Hassan Mwinyi arrived in New Delhi today to seek support of the new Indian government for the frontline states in Africa in their struggle against the racist South African regime.

Speaking to reporters at airport Mwinyi said India had been steadfast in supporting their cause and hoped it would continue to do so until the apartheid system was dismantled and Pretoria regime's aggression against neighbouring African states ceased.

Zambia The six frontline states in direct confrontation with South Africa welcomed yesterday a UN demand that Pretoria end apartheid.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, chairman of the regional bloc, said the general assembly's unanimous condemnation of apartheid this week should help South African president de Klerk in efforts to reform.

No forcible return

Vietnam warns UK

BANGKOK, Dec 16, (Reuters): Vietnam has denied it accepted boat people forcibly repatriated from Hong Kong and has threatened to send back any being returned against their will, the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said today.

"The Vietnam discovers any case of forced repatriation, it reserves the right to return them to Hong Kong," the agency, monitored in Bangkok, said.

Hong Kong authorities sent back 51 boat people on Tuesday but Vietnam, which allowed the plane carrying them to land, has claimed the refugees were returning voluntarily and denied it accepted the returnees in exchange for cash.

The VNA report said Vietnamese officials warned the British ambassador in Hanoi that any forced repatriation might undermine a programme of voluntary return agreed at an international conference on Indo-Chinese refugees in Geneva last June.

"Any violation of the above principles may hamper and even completely disrupt the process of co-operation to

resolve this complicated problem," VNA quoted a Foreign Ministry official as telling ambassador Emrys Davies yesterday.

Vietnam has accepted more than 600 refugees returning under a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) programme but both Hanoi and the refugees body have said they would have nothing to do with forced repatriation.

Journalists in Hanoi said Vietnamese officials barred them from visiting the 51 returnees who were being held in a transit camp on the outskirts of the capital. One photographer who went near the camp said it was empty.

Vietnamese officials had earlier said they would return the refugees to their homes in the northern provinces of Haiphong and Quang Ninh.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach says socialism will emerge reinvigorated after overcoming the crisis it faces in eastern Europe, the official radio Hanoi reported.



A Korean man is overcome with tears as he is reunited with a South Korean relative. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sakhalin exiles in Seoul Separation ends

SEOUL, Dec 16, (AP): Relatives weeping with joy welcomed 23 Koreans who returned to their homeland from the Soviet island of Sakhalin yesterday, ending more than 44 years of separation.

The emotional reunion took place at Seoul's Kimpo international airport when the exiles arrived for their first hometown visit since they were sent by Japan to labour on Sakhalin during World War II.

The island then was under Japanese control, but the Soviet Union took it over in the closing days of the war in 1945, when Korea was liberated from Japan's colonial rule and immediately divided into the communist North and capitalist South.

This is the first group of Koreans from Sakhalin to visit South Korea under a programme initiated in July by South Korean and Japanese Red Cross officials. The 23 Koreans, ranging in age from 57 to 83, will return to the Soviet territory after an officially sponsored two-week stay.

About 4,000 Korean wartime survivors live on the far eastern island with more than 30,000 Sakhalin Koreans of the second or third generation. Bureaucratic obstacles block the way of those who wish to resettle in South Korea, including the fact that no diplomatic relations exist between Moscow and Seoul.

Accord reached on Chun issue

SEOUL, Dec 16, (AP): South Korea's ruling and opposition parties agreed today to end their long dispute over alleged corruption during former president Chun Doo-hwan's administration.

President Roh Tae-woo also may be planning to reshuffle his cabinet and governing Democratic Justice Party leadership, presumably by next week, according to newspapers that quoted unidentified political sources today.

The so-called "grand compromise" agreement came after nearly seven hours of talks between Roh and the nation's three main opposition leaders — Kim Dae-jung, Kim Young-sam and Kim Jong-pil.

"I am glad that I have been able to reach a satisfactory agreement on clearing away past issues," Roh told reporters after the talks, which lasted until early today at his office.

Opposition parties have accused Chun of corruption, power abuse and the bloody suppression of a pro-democracy movement during his seven-year rule.

In the 11-point agreement adopted at the end of the meeting, Roh agreed to opposition demands that two former army generals closely associated with the Chun administration — Chung Ho-yong and Lee Hui-sung — be expelled from politics. He also agreed to try to force Chun to testify on national television about alleged corruption during his administration.

The agreement also proposed compensating victims of suppressed demonstrations in Kwangju in 1980 and the possible release of prisoners who are serving long terms for political crimes. Justice Ministry officials said about 200 people are in prison after being convicted of spying for or helping communist North Korea.

Most South Korean newspapers hailed the agreement as a "grand compromise" that could bury past issues related to Chun's tenure, but it failed to satisfy student radicals who labelled it "a dirty trick."

The opposition leaders promised they would no longer raise complaints against the previous administration once the agreement has been fully instituted.

No deadline was set for implementing it, but chief presidential spokesman Lee Se-jung said: "All problems would be settled before the end of this year."

Government officials said the compromise was possible after Roh accepted two key opposition demands for Chun's open testimony on national television on his alleged misdeeds and the expulsion of some officials associated with the ex-president.

"The results are not 100 per cent satisfactory but I did my best to put an end to the dispute," said Kim Dae-jung, head of the largest opposition group, the Party for Peace and Democracy.

He said his party would not raise the Chun issue again.

Tributes pour in as Sakharov mourned

Body to lie in state today: Russians pay homage

MOSCOW, Dec 16, (Reuters): Tributes poured in from across the world to join Kremlin leaders, former dissidents and ordinary Russians in mourning the death of Andrei Sakharov, the nuclear physicist who fathered the Soviet human rights movement.

Sakharov, struck down by a heart attack on Thursday at the age of 68, was to be buried on Monday at a suburban cemetery outside Moscow.

His wife, fellow human rights campaigner Yelena Bonner, said on television that his body would lie in state tomorrow at a Moscow youth palace and would be moved on Monday to a place outside a stadium

where he used to address rallies.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, dissidents including Anatoly Sharansky who now lives in Israel, politicians and other public figures described Sakharov's death as a loss.

"It was possible to agree or not to agree with him, but he was a very sincere man," said Gorbachev, who personally ordered Sakharov's release after six years of internal exile in 1986.

Sharansky, who spent nine years in jail before being allowed to emigrate to Israel, praised Sakharov for helping change the whole atmosphere in the Soviet Union.



A woman lights a candle at a makeshift shrine in front of Sakharov's house. (Reuters wire photo)

I'm framed: Hsu

Dissident accuses Taipei

TAIPEI, Dec 16, (AP): A prominent dissident who returned home from 10 years of exile in the United States to face sedition charges today accused the Taiwan high court of helping the government to frame him into jail.

Hsu Hsin-Liang, 48, former county executive and publisher of the now-defunct Formosan monthly magazine, could be sentenced to 20 years of jail if convicted.

"In the past 40 years, the Nationalist government has suppressed political dissent with suppression charges. This court now acts as accomplice for the Nationalists," he said.

Hsu made the accusation in the pre-trial hearing after Judge Liu Shih-Yuan rejected Hsu's requests to summon his former colleagues to the witness stand.

Hsu's three lawyers argued that witnesses' accounts were essential to the case because prosecutors filed charges based on decade-old confessions by former executives of the dissident magazine, who claimed they had been tortured and intimidated into making the statements.

But Liu threatened to expel Hsu's lawyers, saying the noisy protest disrupted court room order.

The judge said two piles of old documents on his desk were sufficient. "It is a waste of time to investigate further."



Hsu on trial

Taiwan dissident Hsu Hsin-Liang smiles for photographers on his way to a trial hearing on sedition charges in Taipei on Dec 16. Hsu who in September was caught trying to sneak back into Taiwan after a decade of self-exile in the US, is accused of advocating the violent overthrow of Taiwan's nationalist government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese chapter in Japan

TOKYO, Dec 16, (AP): Led by Wuer Kaixi and Wan Runnan, Chinese and Japanese activists today established a Japan branch of an international group dedicated to continuing the struggle for democracy in China.

Some 250 Japanese supporters and Chinese students in Japan gathered at a Tokyo hotel to inaugurate the Japanese chapter of the Front for a Democratic China, a Paris-based group.

"We must extinguish the Communist Party's dictatorship by the end of this century," the 21-year-old Wuer was quoted as saying.

Wuer, vice chairman of the front and head of its US chapter, was the most prominent leader of the April-June movement for democracy. He fled China after June.

Wuer was a student at Beijing Normal University when he rose to prominence in the movement that sought political reforms, a free press and a more liberal society. He is now a non-degree student at Harvard University in the United States.

Senior Chinese officials abandoned a recent conciliatory tone toward the United States and have reverted back, warning against subversion by "hostile foreign forces," the state-run press reported today.

US President George Bush spoke of his courage and devotion.

Outside his flat on Moscow's bustling inner ring road, to which wronged and disgruntled Soviet citizens flocked in the 1970s, ordinary Russians braved icy weather to pay homage.

In the early hours of today, despite thick snow, people turned up to light candles, lay flowers and sign a school exercise book which acted as a makeshift book of condolence.

The Soviet Parliament, of which Sakharov had been one of the most vocal members since its first session in May this year, rose in silence yesterday when told of his death.

The official tributes marked a posthumous justification of Sakharov's political stand after years of being vilified as a traitor and slanderer by the communist establishment.

Sakharov was banished to the city of Gorky in January 1980 under the now discredited Leonid Brezhnev but was freed from his exile in 1986 by Gorbachev.

Boris Yeltsin, a former Moscow party chief and fellow leader of the radical parliamentary faction to which Sakharov belonged, called for a day of mourning to be declared.

"I also ask the Congress (of Deputies) to return to Sakharov all the awards which were taken from him," Yeltsin said.

"But we must fulfil the will of Sakharov who agreed to take them back only once all political prisoners in the Soviet Union are freed," he added.

The Congress of People's Deputies will break for three and a half hours on Monday to let members attend Sakharov's funeral.

Yevgeny Primakov, a non-voting member of the ruling Politburo, was appointed to head a funeral commission and finalise the arrangements with Bonner.

The Soviet public liked and respected Sakharov at least as much as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. An unscientific poll conducted by the weekly arguments and facts in October found Sakharov the country's most popular politician, more popular than Gorbachev.

Even though Sakharov owed to Gorbachev his return to Moscow from the living hell of isolation, force-feedings and surveillance of Gorky, Gorbachev never dominated Sakharov.

Sakharov spoke out in favour of the reforms Gorbachev instituted because they matched his own ideals. But in the past several months he had become increasingly critical of the pace of the reform and Gorbachev's personal accumulation of power.

The Soviet news agency Tass put videotapes of Sakharov for sale yesterday within minutes of announcing his death.

The Tass video service offered videotapes featuring the last days of Soviet academician Andrei Sakharov, it said.

Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's Solidarity trade union and a fellow Nobel peace prize laureate, said: "This is a great loss for reform both in the Soviet Union and everywhere else."

"It is very bad that God's sentences are such," Walesa told the Polish news agency PAP in Gdansk. "We needed this man for reforms and for the troubles connected with them."

Walesa sent a telegram of condolence to Sakharov's widow, Yelena Bonner, saying: "The wave of reforms that he has been fighting for is today overflowing the entire Eastern Europe. So many difficult problems emerge and we will miss his active voice in solving them."

Comoros normal

France, S. Africa negotiated with Denard

MORONI, Dec 16, (Reuters): France and South Africa jointly negotiated the departure of white mercenaries who seized power three weeks ago in the Comoro islands, diplomats said today.

The two countries virtually forced the Comorian government to request French military assistance, they said.

Life was returning to its usual sleepy pace following the arrival yesterday of 190 French paratroopers to take control of local security forces and maintain order.

Officially troops were sent in from France, the former colonial power, at the request of Interim President Said Mohamed Djohar and his government.

But the 77-year-old former president of the Supreme Court said: "France told us 'this business does not concern you now, it is between France and (mercenary leader) Bob Denard' so we didn't make a fuss."

There were no public demonstrations of joy that they had finally left — just a mood of quiet resignation.

They flew to Johannesburg yesterday on a chartered plane with pistols at their hips and swigging beer, promising to resurface elsewhere.

About 50 French officers and military instructors will stay on in the Comoros for an undetermined period to take over the 650-strong presidential guard.

South Africa has said it will not give permanent refuge to the mercenaries, most of whom are French and are expected to return to France.

But Denard, 60, who faces criminal charges in France, and some of his comrades, will be allowed to stay in South Africa temporarily.



Denard (second from right) is escorted to a plane shortly before he left Moroni. (Reuters wirephoto)

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha, at a news conference, said most of the uniformed mercenaries would be put on flights to France within 48 hours. He said Denard's status was being discussed by France and South Africa.

Political leaders in the Comoros have begun to discuss the future and the holding of fresh elections.

Khmer Rouge prepares for counter-action when government starts dry season offensive

PONG NAM RON, Thailand, Dec 16, (UPI): The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group has quietly planned units deep inside Cambodia to launch small attacks when the Vietnamese-backed government begins an expected dry season offensive along the western border, a Khmer Rouge military commander said today.

"When they launch their offensive against our strongholds along the border we will counter with action by guerrilla units hidden inside the country," said Mit

Pon, deputy commander of Khmer Rouge division 415.

Pon, speaking to reporters at the border near Thailand's Pong Nam Ron district, 140 miles (225 km) southeast of Bangkok, said hundreds of such units were already in place along with caches of arms and ammunition.

He said most of them were around the Tonle Sap Lake that stretches from the northwest of the centre of the country. Some units also were in and around the

capital, Phnom Penh, which has largely escaped the fighting in the 11-year-old conflict, he said.

"The attacks will be designed to divert troops and attention from the west in order to reduce the pressure on our positions here," Pon said.

He said intelligence units reported that senior Phnom Penh military commanders met last month in the capital with Vietnamese and Soviet advisors to plan the offensive timed for the dry season which

has just begun.

"They have been stung by our successes and the victories of the KPNLF (Khmer People's National Liberation Front) and the Sihanoukists (forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk), so they are going to attack on a large scale along the whole length of the border," he said.

He said it was also possible the government would use the squadron of MiG fighter-bombers based at Phnom Penh that has so far not seen any action.

Heads roll in Prague reform

PRAGUE, Dec 16, (AP): Eight former communist leaders have been removed so far from the party's policy-setting central committee, the party daily Rude Pravo daily reported today.

Former president Gustav Husak, Parliament speaker Alois Indra, chief ideologist Jan Fojtik and Ignac Janak, Slovak Communist Party boss and politburo member, were said to have resigned from the 140-plus-member body.

Vasil Bilak, Karel Hoffmann, Josef Lenart and Miroslav Zavadil, all top-level officials and veteran hardliners, were removed from the central committee by decision of the party's pulling politburo, the daily said.

The terse report was a confirmation of earlier word from the official CTK news agency on Thursday that "several members of the central committee have resigned."

Josef Hora, a central committee spokesman, told the Associated Press Thursday that Frantisek Hanus, a member of the central committee secretariat, had also resigned. Hora said the resignations of all of the officials involved were accepted by the politburo on Wednesday, Dec 13.

The purge, coming amid growing concern of a possible split in party ranks, was part of an apparent effort to rid the Communist Party of officials discredited by 21 years of orthodox rule following the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Vasil Mohorita, elevated to the politburo on Nov 24, appears to be pushing for a new democratic Communist Party, as are members of a loose association of reform-minded communists calling themselves the communist Democratic Forum.

Rudolf Prevrtil of the Communist Democratic Forum told CTK yesterday that only the Communist Party Congress on Dec 20-21 will tell "whether this movement can live inside the Communist Party."

Meanwhile, Vasil Havel said yesterday that if he is elected Czechoslovakia's first non-party president in four decades he will try to prevent a communist witchhunt.

"I would try my best to avoid a witchhunt in this country, including Communists. There must be justice, but not revenge," said Havel, leader of the opposition Civic Forum.

"The Communist Party has 1.7 million members, all of them are our compatriots and there are countless people among them who are among the masses we are and who want this country to live in democracy," Havel said.

Havel's comments followed word of a deepening split inside the ruling Communist Party between hardline and reform-minded members that could lead to the establishment of a new democratic Communist Party.

Thomas Bata, head of the world's largest footwear company, returned home to a hero's welcome with a message of support for the pro-democracy movement's efforts to reform the economy.

Czechoslovaks in their hundreds of thousands poured into Vienna today to savour the temporary lifting of visa requirements as the two countries prepared to symbolically cut their "iron curtain" border fortifications.



A Bulgarian student vents his anger against media during a rally in front of the National Assembly building in Sofia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sofia march for change

Party leaders meet opposition

SOFIA, Dec 16, (AP): Communist leaders met senior opposition activists for the first time yesterday and agreed to hold talks next week, while thousands again demonstrated for reform.

Meanwhile, Parliament scrapped provisions in the penal code dealing with crimes against the state and approved a measure providing amnesty to all those punished under it.

Konstantin Trenchev of the independent trade union Rodkopa told reporters that the party's second-in-command, Andrei Lukazov, and Premier Georgi Atanasov had been in talks with the group and these leaders had promised to support the proposal that the con-

stitutional clause be dropped from the constitution.

The statement said lawmakers considered dropping the provision from the constitution "an important step on the way to solidifying political pluralism and the development of a democratic state of law" and pledged to go ahead with the move at its next session in January.

New laws allowing for free elections and redistributing state-owned land are also to be debated at that session.

The national parliament declared an amnesty yesterday for Bulgarians accused of political crimes and introduced legislation that would guarantee freedom of speech and assembly.

Earlier this year, the Romanian government claimed the court had no jurisdiction in the case brought before the panel by the United Nations.

Romania argued Mazilu could not be granted immunity because he was residing in his own country.

But yesterday, the court declared itself competent to issue a non-binding "advisory opinion" on whether Mazilu is entitled to diplomatic immunity.

The World Court, formally called the International Court of Justice, is the judicial branch of the United Nations. It has 15 judges and 60 judges ad hoc.

Bush, Mitterrand meet to survey changes in political landscape of Europe

WASHINGTON, Dec 16, (AP): US President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand met today on the Caribbean island of St. Martin to discuss the fast-paced changes in East-West relations.

US officials said Mitterrand requested the meeting, partly to discuss developments in Eastern Europe and also to reciprocate for the weekend he spent last spring at Bush's oceanside retreat in the State of Maine.

Bush was to spend just over four hours on St.

Martin, leaving Washington at daybreak today and returning in the evening.

Bush had laryngitis last night and cancelled a trip to New York City, where he was to speak at the 80th convention of the NAACP, a leading US civil rights group.

In a brief telephone call to the gathering last night, Bush apologised for not being there and said, "I will use my office to speak out against racism and bigotry wherever it is found."

Today's meeting with Mitterrand at a secluded

Honecker accepts 'full responsibility'

Party congress condemns ex-leaders

EAST BERLIN, Dec 16, (AP): The Communist Party, breaking with its past to salvage a political future, today blamed ousted leader Erich Honecker for plunging the nation into crisis and losing the party's public trust.

Honecker, in a letter released to delegates at the party's emergency congress, conceded he was responsible for ignoring the public push for reform. But the ailing former leader, who is now under house arrest, rejected accusations that he was corrupt.

The congress is expected to adopt a more democratic platform and change the party's name. It opened with a sharp condemnation of

former party leaders and an appeal for reform-oriented communists to analyse past failure in setting the new course.

Also today, one of the small political parties formerly aligned with the communists wrapped up its congress and elected reformer Lothar de Maiziere, 49, to head its new drive for political autonomy.

The Christian Democratic Union plans to emphasise the religious roots of the party, apparently hoping to gain support from among the majority of East Germans who are believers.

Numerous reform groups also plan to take part in parliamentary elections tentatively set for May 6, 1990.

Democratic Awakening, one of the better known reform movements, opened a founding conference in Leipzig today and outlined its political course for the elections.

The fledgling opposition group said a German confederation "within a European peace order" was a central aim of its platform, and it blamed the "failure of Leninism, not only Stalinism" for the nation's current turmoil.

Democratic Awakening has drifted away from many of the other reform movements, such as New Forum, that advocate retention of East German sovereignty.

The issue of possible reunification with West Germany is creating fractures within the opposition, as well as among politicians in the established parties.

Meanwhile, in another sign of tension accompanying East Germany's dramatic changes, a regional newspaper disclosed that secret police had been planning a detention camp for "counter-revolutionaries."

The report in the newspaper Thuringische Landeszeitung quoted an unidentified army major as saying plans for the detention camp were discovered during a search of a former secret police office in the community of Tautenhain, near Gera.

At the communist congress, delegates burst into thunderous applause when Michael Schumann, addressing a party report on corruption, accused Honecker of ignoring the public will for reform stirred up more than four years ago by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika, or "restructuring" campaign.

West Germany plans to spend 2 billion marks (\$1.2 billion) annually to help East Germans start small businesses in their homeland, a newspaper today quoted Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann as saying.

The Soviet Union has emotional ties with East Germany and would not accept its incorporation into West Germany, Moscow's Ambassador to West Germany Yuli Kuznetsov said today.

Romania gets a rebuke

THE HAGUE, Dec 16, (AP): The World Court issued a sharp rebuke yesterday to Romania, the odd man out in the crumbling communist bloc, over its treatment of a Romanian member of a UN human rights commission.

Diplomat Dumitru Mazilu, a special reporter for the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights, since 1986 has been refused permission by the Romanian authorities to leave his native country.

In a unanimous opinion, the 15-judge World Court ruled Mazilu is entitled to the "privileges and immunities" that are granted routinely to UN officials and experts employed by UN agencies for specific projects.

The 23-page ruling stopped short of accusing Romania of violating diplomatic convention, but it is seen here as a severe reprimand of President Nicolae Ceausescu's government.

Earlier this year, the Romanian government claimed the court had no jurisdiction in the case brought before the panel by the United Nations.

Romania argued Mazilu could not be granted immunity because he was residing in his own country.

But yesterday, the court declared itself competent to issue a non-binding "advisory opinion" on whether Mazilu is entitled to diplomatic immunity.

The World Court, formally called the International Court of Justice, is the judicial branch of the United Nations. It has 15 judges and 60 judges ad hoc.

Reds will give up monopoly

Yugoslavia falls in line

BELGRADE, Dec 16, (Agencies): The Communist Party will give up its monopoly on power and allow independent parties to compete in free elections next year, according to a draft declaration published yesterday.

It also called for a new constitution that guarantees market-oriented economic reforms, respect for human rights and an independent judiciary.

Some opponents of change have maintained that independent parties would be formed along ethnic lines and further exacerbate ethnic tensions in the nation.

But the declaration, prepared for adoption at next month's national party congress and published by the Borba daily, indicates that Yugoslavia wants to join the wave of democratic reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

"The Communist Party of Yugoslavia supports freedom of assembly and speech, and all other civil liberties regardless of political convictions of individuals," said the document, written by a committee preparing for the congress. It said the

party will give up its monopoly on power and participate with other parties in "free, direct and secret elections."

"We are changing all of this now in order that tomorrow it will not be too late for socialism in Yugoslavia," the document said, adding that the reforms should be carried out within six months after the congress.

Until now, the communist leadership of Serbia, the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics, was a staunch opponent of Western-style democracy.

But at its regional congress yesterday, Serbia's Communist Party appeared to have softened its hardline stance.

Bogdan Trifunovic, the republic's party chief, said in a keynote address that communists and Serbian authorities "have no reason or wish to administratively impede the establishment" of other political parties in the republic.

Serbia's rejection of Western-style democracy has been shared to date by Yugoslavia's military, which contended that opposition parties would be formed along ethnic lines, thus fuelling ethnic tensions.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Quarry workers suffer various ailments

Excavations affect Kuwait soil

GRAVEL extraction, breaking, separation and transportation are one of the causes of environmental problems, Ibrahim Hadi, director of Environment Protection Department, at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health, said.

Speaking to a local daily, Hadi said that in addition to the issue of the environment workers involved in gravel activities suffered various ailments such as respiratory problems and inflammation of the eyes. Medical tests conducted on labourers in 19

quarries confirmed that these illnesses were gravel-work related, the official said.

Exposure

Another study also confirmed that gravel extraction methods followed in Kuwait adversely affect the soil. However, radical changes in methods of digging and the commitment of contractors towards backfilling of the relevant holes and ditches resulting from excavations had significantly contributed towards minimising these harmful effects, Hadi said.

He added that some areas were affected due to the extraction of sand and the movement of heavy vehicles that transport the excavated sand and gravel from the construction sites to different areas of the country. The effect, however, is more obvious in Sabhan, Maqwa, Jahra and Kabed. Hadi also said that the soil in several areas is being exposed to encroachment of desert sands.

Hadi said that some areas which had been refilled need sufficient time to revitalise and commented that contractors should be encouraged to provide plant coverage to these restored sites. He said: "quarries which had been abandoned ten years, still bear testimony to the ill-effects from continued use and movement of heavy duty vehicles on these sites."

A total of 450 tip-vehicles daily transport gravel from one site to different areas and this has caused considerable damage to roads, Hadi said.

Full support for national industries

Constraints on foreign imports

THE Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid has said that the ministry submitted a number of draft bills, memorandums and proposals for dealing with the existing economic situation in the country, which must be implemented as soon as possible to sort out some negative phenomena that have appeared in certain sectors.

He expressed the ministry's intention to lay down constraints on the import of foreign commodities which national products match, adding that customs protection was needed to support national industries.

Percentage

He said the Council of Ministers had laid down constraints for customs protection, stipulating that an industrial plant must be able to meet not less than 40 per cent of the local market demand, where the protection percentage ranged between 10 to 25 per cent for each product, which was calculated after adding the value-added element.

Khalid said that the council had entrusted the ministry with

the authority to lay down constraints on the import of ready-made industrial products of which the local production percentage reached 75 per cent of similar products. Consequently a ban was issued on the importation of five commodities.

Khalid pointed out that there will be constraints effective on all imported commodities excluding those covered under the GCC unified pact, adding that there were proposals for the establishment of special information centres for the real estate markets and land prices.

Authority

He said the current economic situation was not as good as it was hoped and that there were still some negativities in certain sectors that would be sorted out in the near future. He said the ministry continues its effort together with all government authorities concerned and the private sector to revitalise the trading situation in the country and activate the existing economic state of affairs.

Khalid pointed out that the proposed establishment of a public authority for industrial-

isation must be studied carefully to identify the strategic goals that could be achieved through industrial development. He stressed that the study must not fail to consider the other available options which focus on the need to promote the existing industrial establishments which supervise industrial growth in the country, as well as sorting out the existing industrial overlapping.

Khalid added that the development of current industrial policies relied on the results and success of the ongoing administrative development process in the country, which utilised all the positive results of applied experiments in order to be able to step up their productivity and enhance their contribution to national development.

"We have been able to rearrange our administrative structures, sort out existing shortages at the individual and equipment level and hope to be better able to maximise the utilisation of existing skills and qualified cadres to meet the desired goals," Khalid said.

Khalid patronises charity dinner

KUWAIT, Dec 16, (Kuna): Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid today patronised the charity fund-raising dinner hosted at the Meridien Hotel by the Charitable Committee for Solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon.

Khalid told Kuna that his patronising the ceremony comes to demonstrate and re-establish conviction that goodness and charitable efforts would always remain on the side of the Palestinian people and their heroic intifada (uprising).

He paid tribute to the committee's endeavours and said it has been playing a pioneer charitable role in extending relief materials to Palestinian and Lebanese people. He noted that the committee has several productive, educational and rehabilitative projects.

Khalid lauded the committee for the continuous support it had been rendering to the Palestinian cause and the ongoing intifada in the occupied Arab territories.

The committee, which will also organise the third Palestine Week here under the motto "Our Children are Making Palestine Glorious" from Dec 26 to Jan 1st. The week includes, among other activities, a bazaar, a charitable dish and a photographic exhibition, the profits of which would go to back the intifada.

The committee is also leading efforts to collect a sum of KD one million through other charitable activities in support of the intifada.

Art critics pay tribute to artist ambassador

ISLAMABAD, Dec 16, (Kuna): Art critics of Lahore have paid rich tribute to Kuwaiti ambassador in Pakistan Qasem Omar Al Yaqout for the paintings he displayed recently at an exhibition at Al Hamra, Lahore city's grand art centre.

In their comments on the 113-item paintings exhibition, the critics noted that the past influenced him markedly and instigated his mind to project it in an exquisite manner to convey a strong message.

The message, they noted, was aimed to preserve the past as an eloquent and articulate example depicting the life of worthy ancestors and the hardships they endured to ensure a better life for the new generation.

The critics pointed out that Yaqout drew his subject matter from the ancient history and culture of Kuwait in particular and the Gulf region in general. But Yaqout has also relied on his impressions of the countries he served as ambassador of Kuwait, especially Western Europe and Scandinavia. In this context his art assumed a universal dimension, one critic said, adding that this showed that Yaqout was a highly sensitive impressionist.

His paintings exhibition in Lahore, which was inaugurated by Provincial Chief Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was the first by a foreign ambassador serving his country in Pakistan. It drew hundreds of art lovers, critics and amateurs and professional painters.

After going round the exhibits Sharif, addressing the envoy from Kuwait, remarked "your excellency art seems to constitute an integral part of your life."



Traffic seminar

A seminar was held yesterday at the Interior Ministry computer centre on traffic accidents in Kuwait. Director of Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul-Hameed Al Hajji and other senior traffic officials attended the seminar. A Swedish traffic expert, Ron Paterson and an official from the Arab Security and Training Centre in Riyadh, Khaled Al Rushood delivered two lectures. The lectures centred on the development of traffic in Kuwait, role of public transportation in solving traffic problems, role of motorways in encouraging overspeeding and other safety measures required for cars.

Egg mafia in the dock

Municipality supervises markets: Sheikh Ali

THE concept of establishing governorate municipalities as a viable process towards implementation of the decentralisation policy has been strongly supported by Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali, director general of Kuwait Municipality who added that he believes it will facilitate transactions of petitioners.

Incidents of cheating in relation to validity and health regulations, connected to commodities are strictly supervised by municipal authorities in accordance with regulations and those found to contravene the rules are prosecuted, the official said.

Speaking of the issue of several traders being apprehended in the case which has been published by local newspapers as the "Egg Mafia" at the vegetable market, Ali described the offence as a crime due to it being related to an act of forgery. The accused had been found in possession of forged stamps with which they were marking the eggs.

Jurisdiction

This crime exceeds the jurisdiction of Municipal rules and regulations and the case has been referred to the general prosecution, the official said.

Speaking on problems with regards to stalls

located at the Central Vegetable Market, the official told the interviewing daily that there are no problems concerning stalls existing at the Central Vegetables and Fruits Market in Shuwaikh. He indicated that the distribution of these stalls are conducted according to pre-set rules.

He added that in response to requests by residents several studies have been conducted by the municipality to reactivate the market movement in buildings one and three at the market.

With respect to the slaughtering process of sheep, the director general stressed that all livestock should be subjected to health inspection by the municipality prior to slaughter. He urged residents not to indulge in any slaughtering of sheep outside the premises of the slaughtering houses so as to avoid any safety hazards.

Sheikh Ali said that special rules had been promulgated with relations to ensuring cleanliness in the country and inspectors have been authorised to apprehend all violators who do not abide by the cleanliness rules on public roads, parks, grounds and all other areas.

Self-help programme set up for destitute

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has for the first time in the Arab Gulf region introduced a new programme at one of the community development centres aimed at upgrading the capabilities of people receiving aid from the ministry, a senior official at the ministry said.

Giving details of the experiment to a local daily, Dr Latifa Al Rujab, assistant undersecretary at the ministry said that the programme encompassed members of needy families, widows and divorcees. She said that the system among others, aims at upgrading the capabilities of members enrolled into the programme with a view to bringing them into the mainstream of productive people and instill into them a sense of self-dependency.

She added that the programme is designed to provide aid-recipients social, psychological and material equality opportunities in addition to transferring the community from the Bedouin state to a civilised one.

Training

Giving details of the programme, the officials said that it began last June with 123 members joining the typing, cuisine and tailoring training courses. A further 203 have been registered to join training courses in ceramics, sadu works, hair dressing and the decorative arts.

Statistically, Rujab said that 91 per cent of the trainees had applied for continuing the relevant programmes and 98 per cent had expressed the desire to proceed with the training.

GCC awards

MUSCAT, Dec 16, (Kuna): 60 scientists, scholars, artists, and actors from the six Gulf Co-operation Council states will be honoured here Monday during the 10th GCC summit conference, press reports said here yesterday.

The Omani daily "Oman" quoted an official source as saying the awards idea came from Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed personally and was accepted by the GCC leaders.

Health workers Revamp salary structure: official

SALARIES paid to health employees are not up to standards, according to a senior health area official who recommended conducting studies in this respect on an urgent basis to redress the grievances of these employees and boost their spirits.

Dr Abdullah Hamaddi, director of Ahmadi Health Area said that due to financial and mental factors, some employees neglect their responsibilities which is detrimental to health service beneficiaries at Ahmadi Health Area.

In the final analysis, the official said, that this has created a feeling of mistrust among health employees and beneficiaries.

To compound the issue, he said that both loyal and unloyal health employees are equally treated by the ministry and added that the currently implemented grade system is constructive — particularly among administrators. He pointed out that most technical employees will continue to remain living in the same social structure due to their fixed salaries.

Hamaddi speaking about urgent future expansions which will be conducted in the area said that expansion of Addan Hospital is under study. The expansion, amongst others, includes increasing the number of beds at the hospital to 1,500 and at various sections of the hospital.

He indicated that a special plan is designed to open new health centres. One of these is the Specialised Health Mangaf Centre to be opened next month and to become operational under the family doctors system. This centre will provide specialised health services to area residents, Hamaddi said.

The official pointed out that the Zour Health Centre has been prepared and equipped with all needed equipments and will be opened during the first half of the coming year. Further, Hamaddi anticipated that the West Fintas Health Centre will commence services during the second half of the next year.

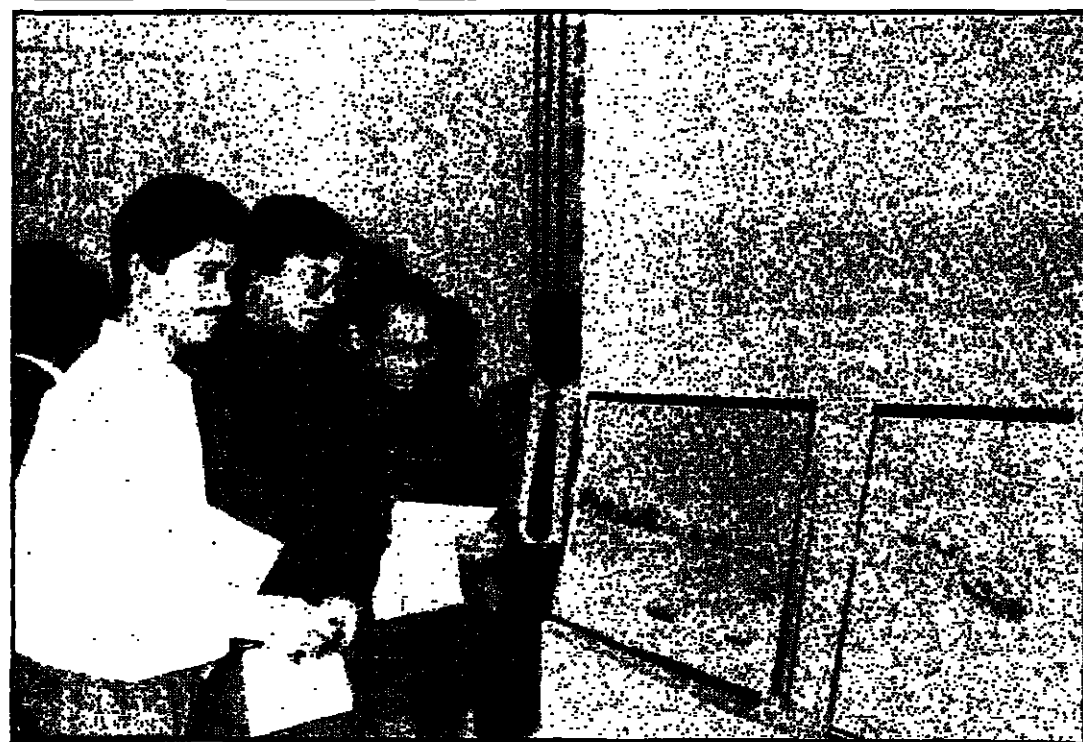
Regarding expanding services at the area, he indicated that the area administration seeks to implement the computer registration system for patients at all facilities and also to apply the personal files system and approving of the civil identification card as a health number for patients.

CSC appoints 10,971 Kuwaitis

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has appointed a total of 10,971 Kuwaitis of which 7,578 were appointed in ministries and establishments between 16.7.89 and 15.9.1989, according to the Civil Service Law and 3,393 Kuwaiti employees were appointed in other government establishments that are not subjected to the Civil Service Law.

Giving these statistics, Mohammed Al Salman Al Sabah, assistant undersecretary of the CSC disclosed that 11 of the newly appointed employees hold the Ph.D degree, 21 Masters, 10 diplomas, 1,924 university degrees, 1,334 higher diplomas after Secondary School Certificate and 1,592 the Secondary School Certificate. The balance of 2,686 have been appointed with levels less than SSC.

The office of manpower planning at the CSC that was established in July 1988 acts as a central information bank for Kuwaitis who desire to get jobs at the public sector as well as the private sector. Further, the office also finds jobs for Kuwaiti students of Kuwait University and Public Authority for Applied Education during summer vacations. Ministries and establishments that suffer from shortage of employees during summer can benefit from this experiment which has been instituted for the first time this year.



Bangladesh Victory Day

The Victory Day of Bangladesh was observed in Kuwait yesterday with a flag-hoisting ceremony (left) in the morning at the Bangladesh embassy. The Charge d'Affaires Mohsin Ali Khan hoisted the flag in presence of a large number of Bangladeshis. Later the charge d'affaires opened a solo art exhibition of Rantu Acharjee (above). The exhibition will continue at the Bangladesh embassy auditorium till Dec 21. (Photos by Mohammed Bedaq)

Indian national stabbed in Ardiya

AN Indian national was mugged and stabbed by a bunch of unidentified youths in the Ardiya Area Wednesday last. Investigations are in progress to apprehend the perpetrators.

In a separate incident, more than seven cars were vandalised and 14 tyres slashed in Block 5 of the same area after midnight on Thursday.

The owners of the vandalised cars told a local daily that police investigations by the Firdous station where the incident was reported, was carried out seven hours after they reported the damage.

In this incident too, the miscreants have been reported to be a gang of youths.

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court passed sentence on three convicts for smuggling and trading in a substantial amount of heroin.

The court was told that the suspicions of the anti-narcotic squad were raised by the movements and behaviour of the first two accused and arrangements

were made to entrap them. An anti-narcotic squad detective successfully managed to befriend the two convicts and arranged to purchase a large amount of heroin on payment of cash.

During the course of the deal, anti-narcotics men arrested the first and second convict. Under investigation, both convicts stated that they had received the contraband from a third party who they claimed had smuggled the narcotics by concealing them in a television set.

Both the first and second convicts were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour, a fine of KD10,000 each and to be deported on completion of sentence.

The third convict was sentenced in absentia to 15 years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation and a fine of KD15,000. The court further directed that the three convicts should jointly pay a collective fine of KD70,000.

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Divorce a disturbing factor: Awadi

2.6 splits per thousand Kuwaitis in 1987

THE divorce rate among Kuwaitis is over three times higher than the rate among expatriates living in Kuwait according to statistics revealed by Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi. He said that the highest divorce rate among Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis was recorded in 1981 and 1982. For Kuwaitis, the rate jumped from 2.2 per thousand of the population in 1978 to 2.9 per thousand in 1981-82. The rate also increased among expatriates, but to a less extent, from 0.6 per thousand expatriates to 0.8 per thousand during the same period.

Awadi said that the divorce rate among Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, declined slightly in recent years. It registered 2.6 per thousand for Kuwaitis and 0.7 per thousand for non-Kuwaitis in 1987.

The state has been doing more than required in providing all conditions of a decent life for its citizens. It has facilitated procedures and measures for marriage among Kuwaitis by providing financial assistance and all other forms of encouragement, Awadi emphasised. But he said that the protection of society is a joint responsibility between the government and citizens. He called upon citizens to realise the dangerous influence that divorce leaves on children and society as a whole.

Awadi expressed the governments

readiness to help save families from this social evil and described the increasing rates of divorce among Kuwaitis as "a very disturbing factor."

He said that various concerned departments in the government are co-ordinating to help couples overcome any problems and thus help in reducing divorce rates. He hinted at possible measures that may be taken in co-operation with influential social figures to try to solve family problems before reaching the courts and resulting in divorce.

Protection

The main aim of such a step would be to preserve the safety of the families and protect the unity of society. He described divorce as "a social evil that threatens the society and is against the governments keen interest to preserve the Kuwaiti family. He added that the government is well aware of the fact that divorce rates have been increasing in the country.

In 1978, out of 4,886 marriage contracts signed among Kuwaitis in 1978, there were 1,163 divorces, while out of 2,005 marriages for expatriates in 1978, there were only 429 divorce cases. In 1981, there were 1,692 divorce cases among Kuwaitis against 6,410 marriages, and for expatriates there were 611 divorce cases against 5,227 marriages.

In spite of the fact that the number of

expatriates is over twice the number of Kuwaitis, the number of marriages among Kuwaitis remained higher than their expatriate counterparts.

The number of divorce cases in 1982, the year of the Manakh crash, further went up with 1,750 cases although number of marriages dropped slightly to 6,259. For expatriates, 693 divorce cases were recorded, but the number of marriages also increased from the previous year to cross 3,000. In 1983, there were slight increases in the number of divorce and marriage cases among Kuwaitis and expatriates alike. Out of 6,368 marriages among Kuwaitis, there were 1,784 divorces and out of 3,294 marriages among expatriates, there were 723 divorce cases. In 1987, about 6,586 marriages took place among Kuwaitis and there were 1,928 divorce cases. Similarly, out of 3,256 marriages among expatriates, there were 769 divorce cases.

Comparison

According to a recent comparison study on divorce cases by the Ministry of Planning, it said that divorce cases in Kuwait increased by 195 per cent from 1968 to 1987, as only 912 cases took place in 1968 and 2,697 cases took place in 1987. The ministry, comparing the divorce cases between years 1968, 73, 78, 83 and 87, said the increase in divorce cases between those

years were 30 per cent, 34.2 per cent, 57.5 per cent and 7.6 per cent respectively. The study also noticed that the percentage of Kuwaiti female divorcees has been increasing steadily and recorded 55.4 per cent, 54.8 per cent, 59.1 per cent and 66.4 per cent respectively.

Moreover, the study showed that the percentage of divorced Kuwaiti wives from Kuwaiti husbands has also been increasing and recorded 68.6 per cent, 67 per cent, 73 per cent and 80.3 per cent respectively over the above mentioned years.

Another important fact indicated by the study is that though the percentage of Kuwaiti wives divorced by non-Kuwaiti husbands increased over those years, but it remained lower than Kuwaiti wives divorced by Kuwaiti husbands. The percentages of Kuwaiti wives divorced by non-Kuwaiti husbands were 16.1 per cent, 21.7 per cent, 24.8 per cent and 31.6 per cent respectively.

The study said that the rates of final divorce cases were increasing at a time when "revocable" cases were dropping over the past years. Among Kuwaitis, the rate of "final" represented only 58.1 per cent of all divorce cases in 1973, increased to 89.8 per cent in 1978, went down to 79.4 per cent in 1983 and then went up again to its highest level ever in 1987 to 92.8 per cent.

Hajji enumerates istimara categories

Test dates to be computerised

BRIGADIER Abdul Hameed Al Hajji, director-general of the General Traffic Administration (GTA) gave a comprehensive overview of the various developments in services introduced by the GTA to the public.

On a priority basis, commenting on categories that are allowed to get istimaras (learners licences), Hajji enumerated the following:

- Physicians (with attested letters from the Ministry of Public Health).
- Engineers.
- Teachers at universities, higher faculties, schools, libraries and sociologists at the Ministry of Education.
- Consultants, judges and experts.

● All handicapped persons. Additionally, they can exchange the driving licence they carry from other countries without any restrictions — except that they must produce a certificate from the club for the handicapped.

● Yemeni nationals working as cashiers, money collectors and public servants.

● Arab students studying at the university and applied institutes — provided they finish the first year.

● Arab employees who graduated from Kuwait University and applied institutes and if they were born in Kuwait and work in the government or private sectors.

● Wives of Kuwaiti nationals carrying valid residence, divorced or widows, mothers of Kuwaiti children. (Wives of Kuwaiti nationals should bring letters from their husbands permitting them to drive).

● GCC citizens who work and live in Kuwait.

● Children of Kuwaiti women who are divorced by their foreign husbands or whose husbands have expired. (Children would have to be born in Kuwait).

● Policemen and soldiers of Kuwait Army who do not carry nationality (they should have served for at least six months in either of these services).

The following categories can exchange their foreign driving licences for istimaras:

- Imams of mosques.
- Lawyers, consultants of legal affairs.
- Journalists who produce letters from their newspapers and are approved by the Ministry of Information.
- Nurses.
- Pharmacists, specialists and technicians working in government and private sectors.
- Director-general, commercial and financial managers, sales managers, accountants, cashiers (should carry university degrees).
- Drivers and mechanics.
- Employees who are appointed in private contracts for temporary employment from army staff (officers and non-commissioned officers).
- Europeans and their wives.

Hajji disclosed that those who have their istimara for a period of over three years, or have failed in their driving tests, several times, will have their istimaras cancelled. He clarified that those falling in the category of exempted persons should apply for new istimaras.

He added that the renewal of driving licences of expatriates will be in accordance with the period of validity of their residence permits.

Hajji said that the Higher Traffic Council will be formed at the earliest opportunity and will then be responsible for all issues relating to traffic in the country.

Amendments to the traffic law are still being studied by relevant authorities and recommendations will be submitted to the Council of Ministers, the official said.

Commenting on the driving schools, Hajji said that a school is being built near the GTA's premises, and it is expected to be completed at the end of 1990 and operational at the beginning of 1991.

Computerisation
A director will be appointed for each school, along with a physician at each school to undertake medical examinations. All driving schools will be under the supervision of the GTA.

The schools will offer theoretical and practical driving courses for students. The schools will be equipped with electrical cars and model streets. Courses will be held in the mornings and evenings.

The opening of the driving schools is intended to facilitate a larger number of exceptional categories, benefitting from istimaras, Hajji said.

Driving test dates will be computerised to avoid any manipulation in these dates or trying to use any "wasta".

Hajji pointed out that the GTA does not plan to change the present plate number of cars. He said: "I do not believe that any change will be made on these plates within the next ten years." The present plate numbers which consist of four numbers and two letters are easy to read.

Hajji said that the GTA began the implementation of traffic notification systems through the postal service. The new service aims at notifying citizens and expatriates about the expiry dates of their car books. Renewal can be also done through the postal service, he said.

In this respect, the official said that the GTA has begun an experiment of the service by selecting a sample of 20,000 citizens and expatriates living in different housing areas. Local insurance officials have agreed to extend their co-operation to facilitate these procedures, Hajji said.

The service will also include the renewal of the driving licence and these services will be carried out in co-operation with the computer centre of the ministry. The streamlining of these services is intended to reduce pressure on the traffic departments and save time and efforts of citizens and expatriates.

Renewals
He said that notification and letters mailed by the GTA not reaching addresses will be returned to the GTA after a period of two weeks from being mailed. The notifications will then be sent again to the respective work addresses of individuals.

The GTA will notify owners of cars about the expiry date of their car books. However, if the car is out of Kuwait and book expires during this period, the plate number of the car will be cancelled. This will be applicable to expatriates. Citizens, however, whose car books expired while they are out of the country will receive notifications abroad by mail, he said.

Hajji pointed out that the GTA will open a branch at the Ministries Complex to renew car books and pay fines. This facility is restricted to employees working in the complex.

Further a branch is intended to be opened inside the second hand cars market (Haraaj) to transfer ownership of cars and renew the car books. The branches will be opened sometime during February of 1990. The GTA is studying with the computer centre the feasibility of issuing of a new form of car book that is smaller than the present one and similar to the driving licence.

The official categorically denied that officers conducting driving tests have a pre-set limit of candidates who will be successful. He said that the success percentage can be 100 per cent on some days and denied that wasta (influence) is used in passing the test. He added: "Only those who are proficient in driving pass the test."

Cameras

Hajji said that using wasta is strongly condemned and legal action is taken against anyone who uses wasta and the person providing it.

He cited the example of an expatriate who tried to bribe the officer. He was referred to the prosecution for legal action, Hajji said.

He added that the authorities were contemplating on the feasibility of admitting some females into the Police Academy. On serious consideration, the plan was dropped as it went contrary to social traditions and values of Kuwaiti society. However, he said that the Ministry of Interior does use women to

investigate cases where women drivers are involved in car accidents or related cases.

Hajji said that the GTA's experiment in fixing a camera at Keifan flyover and another one in Jahra Area was successful and asked for a budget to buy more cameras to be fixed near important traffic signals. These cameras are expected to be fixed during the coming year. These cameras are intended to take pictures of the number plates of cars which cross the red signal.

Hajji said that the GTA signed a contract to draw-up designs of the central control of traffic signals in the state with the concept that the contract will be awarded by tender within the next five months. The control room will be built near the Ministries Complex in the Murgab Area to control all signals from Kuwait City to the 6th Ring Road.

The first stage of the project is expected to begin by the mid of the coming year.

Hajji disclosed that the Ministry of Public Works is the body that is responsible for determining places of traffic signals at roads and disclosed that the signals presently fixed at roads of Kuwait City are temporary. These will be replaced on the completion of the project on the 1st Ring Road and Soor Street, he said.

Deportation

Many expatriates have been deported from Kuwait for committing four to five serious traffic violations within one year. Such violations related to speeding and reckless driving, passing the red light, driving under the influence of alcohol, and transporting passengers in private cars in exchange for money.

The latter problem is being addressed with the co-operation of CID personnel, Hajji said and added that any person convicted of such a violation will have his car confiscated with his driving licence for four months. If he repeats the same violation after that he will be deported. The GTA has now begun monitoring the gathering places of these cars, the official said.

On the same issue, Hajji said that the GTA also takes serious cognisance of violations committed by citizens and imposes strict penalties for similar offences.

The Ministry of Interior has issued an order to establish workshops who will be entrusted with the technical inspection of cars which are to be operated by the private sector, but under the direct supervision of the GTA.

It is intended that one workshop will be accredited to every governorate. Workshops who will be authorised to perform these duties will have to provide several facilities such as adequate car parking, computer facilities for testing cars, up-to-date technical equipment and competent staff and facilities for GTA personnel.

The charter for operations of these workshops is presently being worked out by the GTA administration, the official said. Basically, it is envisaged that each car will be tested by the use of computers in the course of only three minutes. GTA representatives will be present at the workshop to renew the car book.

The GTA intends to fix meters at car parkings in different areas of Kuwait. Further, he said, the experiment of utilising wheel locks on cars that violate parking signs has been successful and added that the GTA is intending to replace the existing heavy locks with lighter types.

The official went on to state that the GTA does not issue plate numbers that carry numbers from 1 to 99. Numbers commence from 100. He added that plate numbers can be transferred from one car to another, provided the two cars are owned by the same person.

A unified driving licence for the GCC states will be issued shortly and an agreement in this connection is being worked out with a company to print the unified driving licence. While the colour of the driving licence will remain unchanged, it will carry the emblem of each state of the GCC, Hajji said.

Bahrain celebrates N-Day

MANAMA, Dec 16, (Kuna): Bahrain celebrated today, its 18th anniversary of its National Day.

On this occasion Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa stressed that Bahrain's involvement regionally or internationally makes it an associate in constructing the new world.

Sheikh Issa said small, big or even superpower countries cannot be isolated from the world's evolution which has become tangled in interests.

He stressed that Bahrain is determined to assume its high position with developed countries in drawing the future of the region and the world it is living in.

The Amir of Bahrain renewed his support to any effort aimed at closing viewpoints between Iraq and Iran and minimize conflicting viewpoints so that both countries can reach a permanent and just peace.

He asserted support for the efforts of the Arab League in various fields topped by backing of the Palestinian struggle and the Intifada in the occupied land.

In conclusion, he said that Bahrain supports the efforts of the Tripartite Arab Committee appointed to restore peace and stability to war-torn Beirut.

The Tripartite Arab Committee groups leaders of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco.



Omar Sharif to arrive soon

By Shahida Azizuddeen
Arab Times staff

OMAR SHARIF, the famous star of the sixties, who made women go weak in their knees, will soon visit Kuwait, a reliable source said.

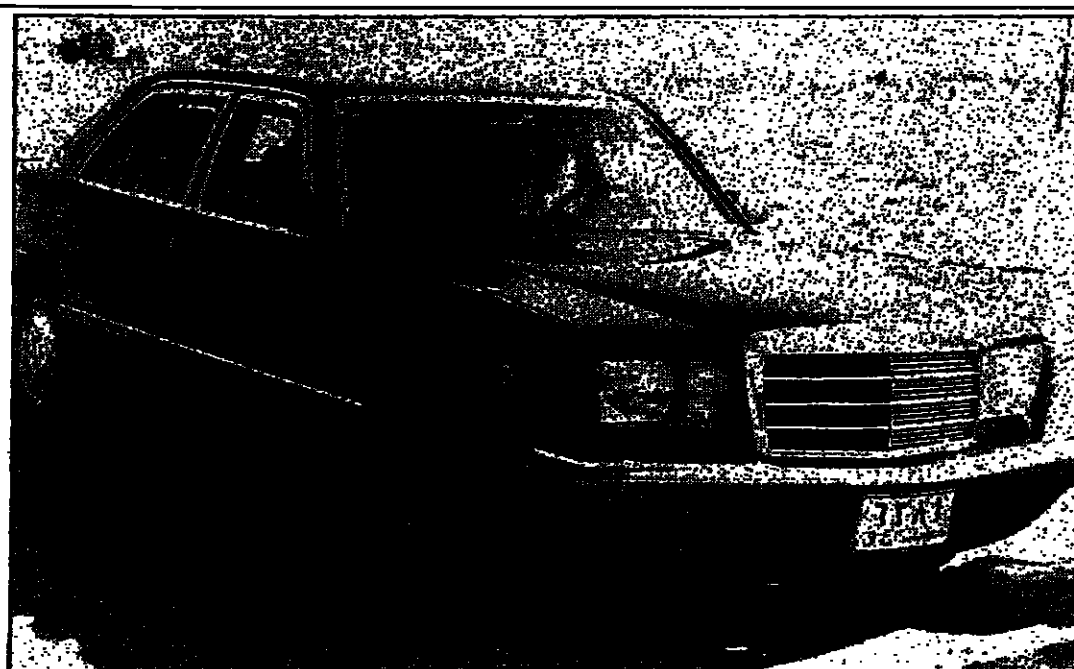
The actor will be in town for business. No other details were available.

Omar Sharif is well known not only for his acting career but also as the man who has many a times set his entire fortune against lady luck.

He was born Michael Shaloub, a Christian, in Egypt, where he began his acting career. In the early stages he acted in many Arabic films that eventually led to his marriage to the then superstar Fatima Hamama who led him to convert to Islam.

Omar Sharif left Egypt for Hollywood where he shot from obscurity to fame with "Doctor Zhivago". Other well known movies of the actor include "Genoveva", "The Fall of the Roman Empire", "Lawrence of Arabia", "Funny Girl", "Nights of the Generals", "Crime and Passion", "The Mystery of the Pyramids" (which was aired here in Kuwait last year) and many more.

Omar Sharif is well renowned for his mastery of the game of bridge and has authored several books on the subject.



Amir leaves for Oman

HH the Amir left yesterday by land for Oman to attend the 10th GCC summit due to open in Muscat tomorrow (Monday). He was seen off by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Salem Al Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, sheikhs, ministers and senior officials.

Kuwait to activate private sector

(Continued from Page 1)

development.

The other phase is allocated to probing other economic resources in addition to oil, the main source of income, which is affected by the international market fluctuations in addition to threats of its "technical depletion" in the event an alternative material was discovered.

That phase, which was employed over a year now, stipulated preparing the scientifically and morally educated Kuwaiti element to serve as the future tool in confronting all problems, the minister said, adding that building that element poses a long term development strategy.

Articles of the development strategy was drafted in accordance with speculations that evaluated current situation in the country in accordance with prevailing economic and social elements and factors affecting its future trends, the minister went on.

The strategy further takes into consideration stability of

political system in Kuwait, expertise of its society in handling various economic and political circumstances, success of foreign investments, completion of infrastructure and the availability of a huge oil wealth.

Challenges confronting the nation, as stipulated in the strategy, are represented in social and economic sectors, the minister said, adding the first challenge was the increasing influx of expatriate workers and increasing dependence on expatriate manpower.

The strategic plan further warns the fact that non-Kuwaitis outnumber Kuwaitis threatens security and stability of the society, the minister went on.

The economic challenge facing the nation focusses on its major national income, namely crude, which the strategy noted should not remain the sole state revenue, he said, adding that other resources should be probed in addition to co-ordinating oil policies with countries with the same circumstances as Kuwait.

The strategy advocated, in face of those challenges, building the skilled national cadres and

amending the demographic imbalance, Dr Awadi underlined.

He said the plan further called for deepening national belonging and allegiance, affirmed basic role of women, underlined importance of cultural, religious, artistic, spiritual and literary aspects to boost social and Islamic values and supported bolstering the co-operative movement.

It stressed importance of expanding industries depending more on machines rather than manpower and necessity of food security as a basic cornerstone of national security, the minister elaborated.

He added that the plan advises citizens to employ rational use of savings and links foreign assistance to sisterly and friendly countries to marketing domestic products and benefiting from technological advance.

The plan finally underlined importance of planning to achieve social and economic development in its capacity as the best means of confronting social and economic changes, he concluded.



Palestinian ID cards

Palestinian embassy in Kuwait began yesterday issuing new identity cards and 'family books' for Palestinians residing in Kuwait. A large number of Palestinians rushed to the embassy premises from early morning to obtain the first-ever Palestinian IDs after 1948. Members of the Palestine national liberation movement central committee, Salah Khalaf and Salim Al Zanoun were present at the embassy. Picture shows Salah Khalaf showing an ID while Zanoun looks on.

Doctors get five day week

WITH effect from January 1, 1990, the Ministry of Public Health has decided that Thursday in addition to Friday will be official holidays for all doctors and specialists operating at hospitals.

According to the new work-schedule, doctors will work from 8:00 am till 4:00 pm all five days of the week, with an hour off for lunch.

The decision excludes administrative staff and employees of casualty wards whose work schedule remains unchanged.

The new decision provides people with the opportunity to call at hospitals outside their official working hours.

The decision has been adopted following the success of an experiment with the revised working-hours system carried out at the Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital earlier this year.

Fire dept ready to handle any catastrophe

THE new fire-fighting academy which is presently being built in Sulabiya area will be the sole site to be utilised to impart training to fire fighters, Ali Al Qabandi, director of public relations at the General Fire-Fighting Department said.

Qabandi added that though Kuwait till the present time has been bereft of catastrophes such as earthquakes, and other natural disasters, the government has extended every effort in taking necessary precautionary measures to face any possible eventuality.

Interviewed by a local daily on the safety scenario in Kuwait, the official categorically said that articles included in the fire-fighting regulations and rules have made contingencies for addressing natural, chemical or nuclear accidents. These contingency plans have been supported by the ministers council decision, he said.

He commented that fire-fighters in Kuwait are highly qualified and have been provided with extensive and comprehensive training in all fields of fire-fighting.

To maintain the highest level of safety, the department conducts periodic inspection of stores where spirits and other inflammable articles are stored.

Shamlan visit

CAIRO, Dec 16, (Kuna): Kuwait's Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan will arrive in Cairo Sunday for a five-day official visit at the invitation of Egyptian Education Minister Dr Ahmed Fathi Srouf.

New housing law favours science students

THE 27-article revised housing care system has made no provisions for Kuwaiti wives with non-Kuwaiti husbands, which the Council of Ministers left for decision of individual cases to the competent minister.

The new system, to appear in the official gazette's next edition, retains the clause on the lapse of the ten-year period before the occupant of the government-

supplied house had the right to obtain a certificate of proprietorship. It also provides for priority of consideration of students of sciences at Kuwait University and related academic facilities.

The provisions under the new system, which took more than a year to formulate, permitted the rental of the government house offered to students or officials

delegated on special assignments outside or those on study scholarships for the duration of their stay abroad. This is with the stipulation that the tenant be a Kuwaiti family and the right of the National Housing Authority to vacate the rented house any time it deemed necessary making the exceptions needed for this purposes.

Other provisions under the

new system denied permission to sell, trade or part with the government-supplied house under any circumstances. Further, those to whom a plot or a plot and loan had been allocated should be committed to pay the price of the plot during a deadline of two months from the date of allocation, otherwise they would lose their right to enter the distribution ballot.

☆ بارے میں سب سے قبل پتہ لگائیے
☆ لکھنؤ کی فلمیں اور ڈرامے
☆ ایک فلم پر پتہ لگائیے اور ڈرامے
☆ سب سے پہلے 20 x 25 سائز
☆ مفت سائز لکھیے

راجہ اسٹورز
100 سالہ سٹیورز

THE INDIAN SCHOOL
SALMIYA / ABBASIYA / MANGAF / FAHAHEEL
Registration for admission to
KG & Prep Classes — 1990 - 91

The registration for KG & PREP Classes will commence at each branch school from 6th January, 1990, up to 20th January, 1990. Students for admission to the KG class, should have been born on or before 30th September, 1986 and for the Prep Class on or before 30th September, 1985.

Registration forms will be given between 8:00 to 11:00 am. on working days from the School Offices upto 15th January, 1990.

DIRECTOR

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EDUCATION is that which remains when one has forgotten everything he learned in school — Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

Hidden dangers in Switzerland

Asylum seekers attacked

ZURICH, (Reuters): Osman arrived in Switzerland hoping to find a refuge from the imprisonment and persecution he said he had known in Turkey.

Instead he is a virtual prisoner behind coils of barbed wire designed to protect him from an ugly spate of racial attacks which is gripping the country.

"I thought I was coming to a peaceful democracy. Maybe I was mistaken," said Osman, a Kurd, who declined to give his full name. He is living in a refugee hostel in Steinhausen heavily guarded since it was attacked recently.

Last month a gang of teenagers battered to death a 44-year-old Kurd, also from Turkey, on a street in Freiburg. This was two weeks after the hostel in Steinhausen was smashed up.

"For too long we have turned a blind eye to the outrages of these right-wing thugs. The birth of a new fascism in Switzerland has been trivialised," the tabloid Blick said in an editorial after the Freiburg attack.

Politicians are pondering why such an affluent country with full employment should be blighted by xenophobia and racial hatred but are unsure how to tackle the problem.

A recent parliamentary enquiry sharply criticised the authorities for their failure to protect the country's 36,000 asylum seekers.

"I'm not certain how we can introduce fresh legislation without making Turks and Sri Lankans superior to Swiss people in the eyes of the law," said Heinz Schoeni of the Federal Delegation of Refugees.

In the background is Switzerland's traditional nervousness that its prosperity will dwindle if it opens its doors too wide to immigrants from the Third World.

The Justice Ministry said the number of asylum seekers entering Switzerland has risen 54 per cent in the first eight months of 1989 against the same period last year.

The fact that only around six per cent of asylum applications are accepted does not diminish the resentment felt not just by racist vigilantes but by many ordinary Swiss.

But as the political debate heats up, immigrants fear for their lives. As Mustafa Yildirim and two fellow Kurds left a restaurant in the sleepy university town of Freiburg on Nov 24, they encountered a group of teenagers chanting racist slogans.

In the ensuing scuffle, Yildirim was beaten up and died later of head wounds.

One youth was arrested in connection with the killing. None of the teenagers belonged to any right-wing organisation.

Just two weeks earlier members of the Patriotic Front (PF) attending a rally in Steinhausen, smashed windows and overturned furniture at a refugee hostel while the police looked on. Four PF members were arrested and await trial in connection with the incident.

The organisation says it is opposed to violence and the leadership reprimanded members for the Steinhausen break-in.

The Canton's police director Urs Kohler admitted error on the part of his officers and the hostel has since been ringed with barbed wire while one officer guards the building at night.

But inside the long wooden huts, temporary home for 60 Kurdish and Tamil asylum seekers, the men are frightened and angry.

"Why didn't the police do anything? We feel helpless like babies. Scared of the police, scared of the neo-Nazis and scared of being sent back to violence in Turkey if we retaliate," said Bekir, a young Kurd who has lived in the hostel for two months.

Unsatisfied with the level of police protection, the refugees organise a ten-man rota to keep a watch each night.

While the actions of skinhead gangs have prompted consternation, many observers are equally concerned by what they see as a "respectable" racism in mainstream Swiss society.

"These atrocities are the work of a few... but it is also true that the Swiss people are negatively inclined towards the asylum-seekers," said Ursula Meier of the refugee organisation Asyl-Brucke.

"Hatred and contempt are no longer the preserve of the patriotic front. Xenophobia is part of our everyday conversation in bars and restaurants," said the Zurich-based daily Tages-Anzeiger.

The anti-freedom National Action (NA) Party, which has three representatives in parliament, condemns the racial attacks but has views on the reasons for them.

"These attacks are the fruit of our too liberal immigration policies," said NA President Rudolf Keller, adding that most Swiss people would support this view.

"They (immigrants) ought to go back to their own countries or to ones with similar cultures. Cultural diversity only brings unhappiness."

However, last year Swiss voters firmly rejected an NA initiative to tighten immigration policy.

Schoeni disagrees with Keller's view: "The overwhelming majority of Swiss people are positively inclined towards foreigners... besides, they know their economy would wilt without foreign workers."

Switzerland has tried to stem its chronic labour shortage by allowing foreign workers to settle here. Partly as a result of this, nearly 15 per cent of the population is non-Swiss.

Although industrialists say they continue to rely heavily on foreign labour, many people feel the limit has been reached — at least for unskilled, non-European workers.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1531 — Pope Clement VII starts inquisition in Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1538 — Pope Paul III excommunicates England's King Henry VIII.
- 1638 — Pere Joseph Francois de Tremblay, Cardinal Richelieu's secret agent, dies.
- 1718 — England declares war on Spain.
- 1788 — Russian Army under Gregory Potemkin takes Ochakov on Black Sea.
- 1885 — France acquires control of Madagascar's foreign relations.
- 1903 — Orville and Wilbur Wright have first successful airplane flight in history, soaring over sand dunes near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (US).
- 1908 — Ottoman parliament holds first meeting.
- 1914 — Abbas II is deposed, and Prince Hussein Kemal becomes Khedive of Egypt, over which Britain proclaims a protectorate.
- 1922 — Last British troops leave Irish free state.
- 1939 — German battleship Graf Spee scuttled off Uruguay to prevent it from falling into British hands in World War II.
- 1941 — Japanese troops begin invasion of North Borneo in World War II.
- 1969 — Algeria and Tunisia settle border dispute and sign 20-year friendship treaty.
- 1971 — India and Pakistan end their two-week war, with India in charge in East Pakistan.
- 1985 — Uganda's military government and its guerrilla rivals sign peace treaty dividing power between them and ending almost five-year civil war.
- 1986 — Vietnam's top three leaders resign after months of self-criticism over failings in leadership.
- 1987 — Gustav Husak, leader of Czech Communist Party for 18 years, is replaced by post-thro member Milos Jakes.
- 1988 — Israeli soldiers shoot and wound at least 18 Palestinians during protest strike in occupied lands.

Quiet diplomacy at GCC summit

No breakthrough in Gulf truce talks predicted

DUBAI, (Reuters): Sabre-rattling from Iran and Iraq is drowning out the quieter sound of diplomacy in the Gulf, Arab and Iranian officials and analysts say.

A four-day meeting of Gulf Co-operation Council heads of state starts in Muscat today.

The sources do not predict any breakthrough at the GCC meeting on the still unresolved Iran-Iraq conflict, which embroiled the Gulf region in war from 1980 to 1988.

The annual summit is normally used by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain to confirm their political and economic solidarity.

But a communiqué from GCC leaders favouring neither Iran nor Iraq but continuing to press for an acceptable peace could go a long way to hold a 15-month ceasefire, the sources said.

Iran believes the Saudis can help break its post-war stalemate with Iraq.

"The security of the Gulf can only be ensured through participation of all regional states," Iranian

Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammed Besharati said this month, adding that Saudi Arabia had an obvious role to play.

The GCC, however, thinks Iran should do more to break the diplomatic ice with Saudi Arabia.

"Iran has improved relations with most GCC countries but there is still a weak point in its approach, which is its dispute with the Saudis," GCC Assistant Political Secretary Saif Bin Hashil Al Maskari said in October.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran last year after sustained political and religious attacks from Tehran.

Tehran has grown less strident over Islamic issues than it was in the days of Ayatollah Khomeini, but Riyadh has made strenuous efforts to make Lebanese peace talks succeed.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last month said peace was nearer than anyone thought. This month, however, Iraq tested new rocket technology and threatened that it might use the missiles against Iran.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

in a tour of war-devastated border areas said the priority was economic reconstruction.

But the week before the GCC summit Iran has put on its biggest naval exercise in the Gulf for a decade.

The foreign ministers of both Iraq and Iran held UN talks last week without breaking the stalemate.

Iran demands Iraq withdraw its troops from about 1,000 sq miles (2,600 square kms) of Iranian territory.

Iraq demands that peace talks must focus on sovereignty over the Shatt al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf.

Iran fears that the summit could reiterate GCC support for Iraq's claim to the Shatt.

In the last two weeks, Rafsanjani has sent aides bearing messages to all GCC states save Saudi Arabia and Oman. Oman has always had close ties with Iran.

A senior GCC official said the messages were friendly and the GCC had much common ground with Iran, including security. "I am confident both sides (Iran and Iraq) want peace," he said.

Lebanese diplomatic minuet in Washington

WASHINGTON, (AP): The struggle to remove ousted Christian Gen Michael Aoun from the palace where Lebanon is governed is being reenacted in a delicate diplomatic minuet at the Lebanese embassy in Washington.

The tensions have pitted loyalists of embattled Christian Gen Michael Aoun against supporters of newly elected Lebanese President Elias Hrawi who has fired Aoun from all his posts, but Aoun and 20,000 troops are holding out at the presidential palace in the Christian enclave of Beirut.

Hrawi's government also removed Lebanon's veteran ambassador to Washington, Abdallah Bouhabib, and handed control of the embassy to the No 2 diplomat, Sleiman Rassi. Bouhabib has served as ambassador for more than six years.

On Wednesday, the State Department said it had been informed by Lebanon's new government that Bouhabib had resigned effective Dec 11 and Rassi was now in charge. The department said that since it recognizes the Hrawi government as the legitimate ruler of Lebanon, it would now deal with Rassi.

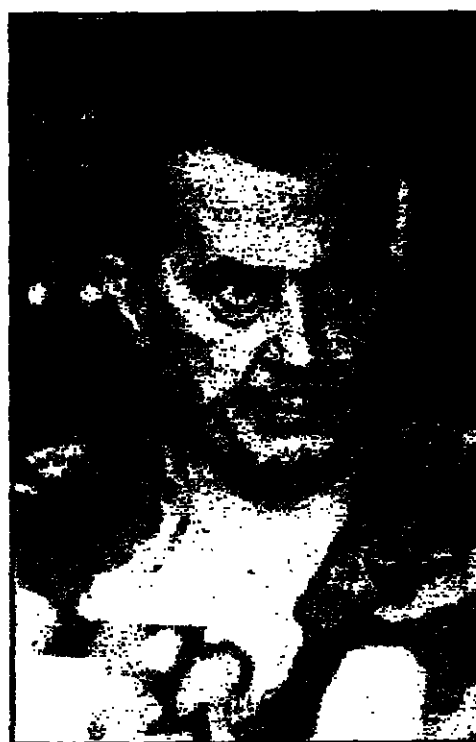
So far, so good.

But Aoun — who does not recognize the Hrawi government because it supports a peace plan that fails to set a deadline for the pullout of Syrian troops from Lebanon — asked Bouhabib to stay put.

Bouhabib had made no secret of his support for Aoun on the fractured political map of Lebanon. So he asked the new government to grant him an extension of his stay here until Jan 23, said Lebanese sources who spoke on condition they not be named.

Muslim Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, who runs the government with Hrawi, turned down the ambassador's request and asked that he vacate the embassy and adjacent residence building, said the sources.

Al Hoss has been the target of Bouhabib's criticism in the past and has conveyed to US officials, as early as last summer, that he does



Michel Aoun

not consider Bouhabib his representative in Washington.

Bouhabib, a former World Bank economist whose wife is American, turned to his friends for help.

He asked ambassador Clovis Maksoud, the envoy of the 22-nation Arab League, to intercede on his behalf with Al Hoss.

Maksoud, a skilled diplomat, managed to persuade the Lebanese government that it was in its best interest to grant Bouhabib an extension and avoid public embarrassment, said the



Elias Hrawi

Lebanese sources.

Another source said Al Hoss would probably let Bouhabib stay on at the ambassador's residence during a period of transition while he hands over the embassy's affairs to Rassi.

Meanwhile, back at the embassy, the picture was murky.

A call to the ambassador's office elicited the information from a secretary that Bouhabib was out of town but was still the ambassador. The secretary, who declined to give her name, said Rassi was still the deputy.

Mercenaries lose key role in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Soldiers of fortune like Frenchman Bob Denard, who finally lost his kingmaking role in the Comoro Islands, have played a prominent but mainly ineffective role in many of Africa's simmering conflicts.

Military experts say the days when colourful mercenaries like Denard and "Mad" Mike Hoare used the continent and Indian Ocean mini-states as their personal playground and fiefdom are nearing end.

South African expert Al Venter said demand for soldiers of fortune is waning because warring parties now use more sophisticated methods of undermining the opposition. He thinks Denard, 60, has probably now fought his last battle.

"Bob has overstepped the mark this time. It is difficult to know what he will do. But he is very wealthy, he'll find somewhere to take him," Venter told Reuters.

He said that Denard's mercenary force was one of the more successful of recent times, having succeeded in controlling the Comoros for more than a decade.

"Of the 100 of so conflicts in Africa over the past two decades, mercenaries have probably been involved in about a dozen. But the record of their

performance is not good," Venter said.

East of the Comoros, the Maldives was the scene of an invasion in November last year when 400 mercenaries made an unsuccessful bid to overthrow President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

The coup, the third since the islands achieved independence in 1968, was crushed with the help of 1,600 Indian paratroopers. The mercenaries, who tried to flee in a boat, were dragged ignominiously back into port.

One of the most spectacular mercenary failures was that of the legendary soldier of fortune "Mad" Mike Hoare, who led a group of mainly South African mercenaries who tried to take over in the Seychelles in 1981.

They were thwarted at the airport customs point just after arriving on a scheduled airliner. Six men were captured but 44 hijacked another plane to South Africa.

On mainland Africa, mercenaries have been used in a host of the continent's bloodiest regional conflicts, including the Biafran, Rhodesian and Zairean civil wars.

Denard himself took an unsuccessful part in the Biafran conflict, in the Angolan civil war, and in an abortive raid of mostly French mercenaries in 1977

to overthrow the Marxist state of Dahomey.

In the Congo, which in 1971 changed its name to Zaire, white mercenaries and Belgian paratroopers were used to help the Congolese Army quell anti-government rebels.

Moise Tshombe, who led a secession, movement against Zaire's first post-independence prime minister before being forced into exile, was invited back home in 1964 to form a government and put down insurgents.

But he was eventually forced to resign in 1965 in favour of the former Belgian colony's current head of state, President Mobutu Sese Seko.

South Africa, its relations strained at the best of times with black Africa, is often accused of providing the mercenary manpower to destabilise its neighbours.

In 1987, the UN human rights commission adopted a resolution condemning the use of mercenaries in the Third World, particularly by South Africa, and appointed a special investigator to report back on the problem next year.

The resolution strongly condemned South Africa "for its increasing use of armed mercenaries against national liberation movements and for the destabilisation of the governments of southern African states."

Aquino may face another coup

MANILA, (Reuters): President Corason Aquino's intelligence chief says he cannot count on at least two thirds of the military and her defence chief says she may have to face another coup attempt in six months.

After failing to predict the December 1 coup attempt, the sixth and most serious Aquino has faced in almost four years in power, military and intelligence chiefs are now unanimously forecasting a new one, possibly within six months.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos says it will take the right-wing renegade military officers six months to regroup and organise a new attempt to topple Aquino, but meanwhile they may mount guerrilla-style urban attacks.

Grenade explosions at a US embassy housing complex and the home of a US diplomat in Manila on Thursday hurt no Americans but sent shivers through the stock market. The Manila index fell through the psychological 1000 point barrier before recovering slightly.

"It's time to take a break," said a broker with Mount Peak Securities, as traders rushed to dump shares. Since the coup, Manila stock prices have fallen by almost 24 per cent.

Aquino, who helped restore democracy in the Philippines through a 1986 "people power" revolt which removed former

president Ferdinand Marcos, is now arming herself with emergency powers to help prevent further coups and revive the shattered economy.

But despite expressions of confidence from the International Monetary Fund that the economy can weather the storm and later bounce back, continued coup rumours are making it difficult for Aquino to win back the political advantage.

Most politicians and businessmen are looking for some decisive action from Aquino to restore confidence, including a radical government reshuffle to get rid of ministers who have failed to deliver basic services. But so far Aquino has announced no policy changes, lashing out instead at opposition leaders she thinks could be linked to the attempt to oust her.

Both Ramos and Aquino's national security adviser Rafael Nieto have recognised that some of the rebel grievances are valid and have called for changes in government direction.

Rebel officers had accused Aquino and other civilian leaders of mismanaging the country, tolerating corruption and engaging in too much politics while failing to solve basic problems such as rising prices and breakdowns in public services.

Nieto said there could be a new army coup if civilian and military leaders ignored rebel appeals for political and economic reforms.

"I cannot rule out the possibility of another coup before President Aquino's term of office expires in 1992 if we refuse to face problems squarely and do something about them," Nieto, a former defence minister, said in an interview.

Rodolfo Canieso, director general of the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Agency (Nica), told a Senate subcommittee hearing he anticipated that 60 to 70 per cent of the armed forces would remain neutral in any future coup attempt, backing the side that eventually emerged victorious.

Canieso, a former army chief, said the remaining 30 per cent of the 165,000-strong military were divided between those linked to the right-wing rebels and government supporters.

Aquino has said only two per cent of the armed forces took part in the December 1-7 coup attempt in which more than 100 people died and 600 were wounded, but the government admits that it has not captured many of the rebels.

Canieso also died there was a serious situation brewing in the southern island of Mindanao where rebel troops were linking up with secessionist organisations.

Cashiered Colonel Gregorio

"Gringo" Honasan said in a letter published in a Manila newspaper on Thursday that the rebels could launch "phase II" of their coup shortly.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel told reporters he believed this could be an attempt to form a separatist government on the southern island of Mindanao, which is rich in natural resources.

A government council has recommended transferring Manila's military camps outside the capital to help prevent further coups. In both the August 1987 coup and the one this month, the military camps were the focus of the fighting.

Congressman Jose de Venecia, a member of the joint executive-legislative panel, said in a statement the camps should be relocated next to the US Clark Air Base, some 80 km (50 miles) north of Manila.

De Venecia said the government would be able to raise \$10 billion through the sale of the land now occupied by the camps housing the army, constabulary, air force and military headquarters.

He said the transfer had been endorsed by Defence Secretary Ramos provided the military can keep its "executive and command presence" in the capital.

Kashmir movement gathers momentum

SRINAGAR, India, (Reuters): An independence movement in Kashmir appears to be gathering steam after the government gave in to secessionist demands and freed five militants in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of an Indian minister.

The release of the five on Wednesday was greeted with jubilation in the streets of old Srinagar and crowds smashed 20 ruling party offices, police said.

People danced and sang in the narrow streets, shouted anti-Indian slogans, and waved the green flag of Islam and the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

Almost forgotten amid the celebrations was Rubia Saeed, 23, daughter of India's newly appointed Home (Interior) Minister Multi Mohamed Saeed, and held by the JKLF for five days.

The hospital intern drove to freedom in a three-wheeled scooter taxi on Wednesday, two hours after the five JKLF militants were released in the old city.

Saeed denied that the deal, in which the Kashmir government conceded with the backing of New Delhi to all the JKLF demands, was a defeat.

"By releasing a few people, we have not strengthened the terror-

Profile

Aylwin wins one more time

CHILEAN President-elect Patricio Aylwin helped bring down governments of the radical left and extreme right before winning the presidency himself, promising to follow a moderate road and preaching, "Chile is tired of war."

Aylwin, a 71-year-old veteran of four decades of Chilean politics, was elected president Thursday, the first competitive vote in the 16 years of President Augusto Pinochet's military rule.

Aylwin helped put together a "rainbow" coalition ranging from the Marxist left to small conservative groups to dash Pinochet's hopes for continued rule in an Oct 5, 1989, plebiscite. Thursday's vote was called after a majority of Chileans rejected Pinochet's request last year for a new term in office.

Some 15 years earlier, Aylwin was a senator and president of the Christian Democratic Party, which bitterly fought socialist President Salvador Allende and supported the coup that ousted Allende's Marxist popular unity government.

"I fought against the thesis of total power of the popular unity and because of that I fought against the total power of Augusto Pinochet," Aylwin said.

Aylwin, whose name is pronounced "Alwin" peddled democracy in his election campaign, asking Chile to put behind it the traumas of successive Marxist and military governments.

"Chile is tired of war," he said repeatedly. He is widely respected among politicians and diplomats for political skills honed since 1945 when he entered politics as part of the National Falange Party, which later became the centrist Christian Democrats.

"I have a very high regard for Aylwin," said Mark Falcoff, an expert on Chilean politics at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. "He himself is a man of the highest integrity. I think he's a forceful figure."

Aylwin may need those skills to hold together the wide-ranging coalition and successfully govern for the four-year term seen as a transition period from military to civilian rule.

Pinochet has entrenched himself in Chile's Army, cloaking himself in the constitution that allows him to remain as Army commander for eight years without the civilian president being able to remove him.

"I think that although the constitution allows Gen Pinochet to remain at his post, I don't believe it is good for Chile, nor for the armed forces," Aylwin said. "He is a man who divides Chileans."

Aylwin also must deal with the armed forces resistance to prosecution of human rights violators, rising demands of labour and the poor while at the same time maintaining Chile's steady economic growth.

The new government also faces numerous restrictive laws approved by the ruling junta a constitution it says must be changed if Chile is to achieve full democracy.

Aylwin was born Nov 26, 1918, in the Pacific coast city of Vina del Mar. His father was a judge who rose to become president of the supreme court.

Before he became a senator, Aylwin was a lawyer and a law professor at the University of Chile.

He is a devout Catholic, and is the father of five children. He also has 10 grandchildren.

Quote me

"He was a man of conviction and sincerity. He was not some sort of political intriguer. He was a person who had his own ideas, his own convictions which he expressed openly and directly. This doesn't mean I agreed with him, although on many things we did agree." — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said about Sakharov.

"The toughest thing I ever had to do is to give up my football team. I want it understood that I'm in good shape physically, there's nothing wrong with my health, although primary reason for me stepping down at this time is that I don't want to run my luck too far." — Bo Schenck, the most successful active college football coach in the US.

"The 1980s were a wasted decade for Africa. Politically we have something to show in that the decade began with independence for Zimbabwe and looks like closing with the take-off of an independent Namibia. But economically in sub-Saharan Africa we have regressed." — Former Nigerian head of state Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo.

"I'm the underdog against Becker and that suits me fine. I can relax and go for it then. In fact, I have played well this year, but my problem is that every time a match has been even, I have lost it." — Mats Wilander said about his match against Boris Becker.



One of a group of six Palestinian men, turns to watch, as an Israeli border policeman reads his papers during identity checks and body searches in East Jerusalem. (Reuter wirephoto)

36,000 Egyptians return from Iraq

CAIRO, Dec 16, (AP) — About 36,000 Egyptian workers returned from Iraq in recent weeks in a labour crisis stemming from the aftermath of that country's war with Iran, a top official said today.

Prime Minister Atf Sedki also said that almost 1,000 Egyptian workers died in Iraq in the first nine months of this year and their bodies were shipped to Egypt. He dismissed charges of foul play, saying the number was not much higher than the average in previous years.

Sedki spoke in the people's assembly, or Parliament, in reply to demands from the floor for an explanation of the labour crisis with Iraq. The figures he gave were the first from the Egypt's government.

Sedki blamed the exodus of Egyptian workers from Iraq on financial difficulties it faces after eight years of war with Iran. A ceasefire agreement was reached in August last year.

Although peace talks have stalled, Iraq demobilised thousands of soldiers whose return to civilian life led to job shortages and layoffs among Egyptian workers, Iraqi officials estimated up to two million Egyptians in Iraq.

The crisis came into the open in October when Cairo newspaper reports that an unduly high number of Egyptian corpses were arriving daily from Iraq and that jobless Egyptians were crowding Baghdad airport seeking transportation home.

Some returns complained of ill-treatment and reductions in and delays of their remittances and indemnities.

"The total number of those who returned to Egypt is about 36,000," Sedki said. "This is a small number compared to the number of Egyptians in Iraq."

He said problems resulted from Iraq's post-war labour and foreign exchange difficulties. He also blamed Egyptians for "flooding" Iraq without pre-arranged employment, noting that most of those who went under contract had no problems.

Libya closes ports to French ships

PARIS, Dec 16, (AP) — Libya has closed its ports to vessels outbound from French ports in a renewed dispute over the delivery of three Mirage jet fighters, the French newspaper Le Monde reported yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry on Thursday called the Libyan action "unjustified" and said a speedy end to the blockade would be "in the interests of everyone," the newspaper reported.

Delivery of the three fighters, which had been blocked from leaving France since 1986, has sparked concern from moderate Arab governments and the United States.

Arabs stage horn honking protest

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Israeli troops shot and wounded at least nine Palestinian protesters today during disturbances in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arab sources said.

Traffic came to a halt in several areas of the occupied territories as motorists honked car horns to protest against the army's confiscation of Palestinian cars, witnesses said.

Troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, the Biblical birthplace of Prophet Jesus Christ, when hundreds of residents held a spontaneous march immediately after traffic stopped, Arab sources said.

The underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising, in its latest communiqué, had called for the five-minute stoppage to protest at the army's seizure of Arab cars for use in raids in the territories.

Most people in the Gaza Strip observed the call and stopped their cars in towns, villages and refugee camps, but traffic was normal in such major West Bank towns as Hebron, Jenin and Nablus.

Troops in the West Bank town of Ramallah shot and wounded four Palestinians while combating stone-throwers near the city centre, hospital officials said. One of the wounded, a 14-year-old girl, was hit in the chest and stomach.

Three Arab protesters were injured by army gunfire in Gaza city and Shati refugee camp, hospital officials said.

In the East Jerusalem district of Jabel Mukaber, police found the body of a 46-year-old Palestinian man, said then, believed he was killed by fellow Arabs who suspected him of collaborating with Israel.

In the village of Alja near Jenin, an Arab man accused of collaborating with Israel shot and wounded a 25-year-old Palestinian in unclear circumstances, residents said.

Jenin residents also said a man suspected of working as an informer died in Jenin hospital on Thursday following an attack by masked activists. They named him as 22-year-old Abd Al Rahman Youssef Zeidan. Military sources confirmed the report.

Troops clamped a curfew on Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm after local activists pulled down a fence separating the camp from the main Tulkarm-Nablus road.

The army had erected the fence to stop youths from stoning Israeli vehicles.

Christian patriarchs of Jerusalem and the Holy Land have decided to cancel festive Christmas visits and limit other celebrations in sympathy with Palestinians who lost their relatives in the uprising, the Latin patriarchate said today.

Israel's top leaders are working out a formula to allow Palestinians deported from the occupied lands to participate in preliminary Middle East peace talks.

Sudan hangs two despite US appeal

KHARTOUM, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir has ratified death sentences on two men and one of them will hang within hours, a senior government official said today.

The official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters that Magdy Mahgoub, convicted of illegally possessing foreign currency, would be hanged today at Khartoum's Kobir prison.

He said that Said Ahmed Gaballah, convicted of possessing heroin for sale, would be hanged as soon as jail procedures were completed. He did not elaborate.

Khartoum's state-run daily Al Sudan Al Hadeith reported earlier that the two men had already been hanged.

The United States sent Bashir a strongly-worded message on Wednesday, urging him to reprieve people sentenced to death by military court.

But Bashir, who seized power from a democratic government in a June 30 coup, vowed on Thursday to strike without mercy at people he said were trying to sabotage the economy or hinder production.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar earlier this week appealed to Bashir to commute the death sentence.



Dances in agony
Mother of Mahmoud Al Moush, a senior member of the Lebanese Communist Party, dances in the funeral of her son under the protection of a communist militiaman in the village of Barja, south of Beirut. Moush died during the fighting between Syrians and Palestinians in south Lebanon. (Reuter wirephoto)

I cannot guarantee peace: Hoss

BEIRUT, Dec 16, (Agencies) — Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss has told Christians he cannot guarantee peace while their leader, General Michel Aoun, continues to defy his government.

In a televised address to the residents of Christian East Beirut last night, Hoss said: "My brethren, you will not hear the beating of the drums of war from us. You will only hear a call for harmony, reconciliation and unity."

"Saying that, I cannot assure you that stability will last as long as the irregular state of partition exists. Even if I guarantee that I will not declare war against you, I cannot guarantee that it will not recur."

Aoun, commanding 15,000 troops from a bunker in the presidential palace in East

Beirut, has refused to recognise the authority of President Elias Hrawi who was elected last month with Syrian backing under terms of an Arab League peace plan.

Aoun objects to the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon and, despite threats to oust him by force, he has refused to hand over the Lebanese Army command to the newly-appointed chief, General Emile Lahoud.

Aoun continues to control the country's Christian enclave. Earlier this year, he waged a bitter six-month "war of liberation" against Syrian forces and their Muslim militia allies. More than 850 people were killed.

In the past, Hoss stressed that he would like Aoun to leave peacefully. His comments yesterday appeared to indicate that he may be hardening his position.

Unlike Hoss, President Hrawi, a Maronite Christian, has advocated the use of force to evict Aoun, who is also a Maronite.

Commandos loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat attacked Syrian troops and pro-Syrian militiamen in southern Lebanon today, security sources said.

The clashes left at least three people dead and four wounded, the sources said.

The sources said commandos from the PLO's Fatah Movement clashed with gunmen of the pro-Syrian Sunni People's Liberation Army militia at the southern entrance of the port city of Sidon, south of Beirut.

The chief spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross today called on the kidnappers of two Swiss relief workers to release them.

"We have the determination to continue and be active, but that depends on everybody helping us solve this case," Carlos Beauregard told a news conference at the beachside Summerland hotel.

Emmanuel Christen, 32, and Elio Enriquez, 23, were abducted Oct 6 by unidentified gunmen outside a Red Cross artificial limb centre in the southern port city of Sidon where they worked as orthopaedic technicians.

The centre, where 81 civil war amputees were being aided, has been closed since the kidnappings.

A Soviet envoy yesterday rejected a US appeal for a joint US-Soviet effort to repeal a 1975 UN resolution that equates Zionism with racism, and said such an effort would be counterproductive.

Jail for illegal export
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 16, (AP) — A silicon valley exporter was sentenced to 33 months in prison and fined \$150,000 yesterday for conspiring to ship guided missile parts to Iran.

Ken Park of Los Altos Hills, owner of Elin International Co. in Sunnyvale, pleaded guilty in August to the felony charge, and the government dropped six charges of export violations.

Ban lifted
AMMAN, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Jordan's new government lifted a two-year ban on the Jordanian Writers' League yesterday as part of moves towards freer political expression, the official Petra news agency said.

Manoeuvres end
NICOSIA, Dec 16, (AP) — Iran's Navy and Revolutionary Guards today ended week-long manoeuvres in the Gulf which Iranian officers said were the biggest in 10 years. Tehran Radio reported.

AL disappointed
UNITED NATIONS, Dec 16, (Kum) — Arab League envoy Clovis Makoud has expressed disappointment at a letter circulated in late November by the UN association of the US regarding the Arab attempt then to upgrade the PLO's status at the UN.

Shara meets Ibrahim
DAMASCUS, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara discussed Lebanon with an Arab League envoy today and a Syrian newspaper said military action should not be ruled out against Christian General Michel Aoun.

Peace talks
ROME, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Ethiopia and rebels fighting its Marxist government have agreed at preliminary talks on countries they will ask to act as mediators at full-scale peace negotiations expected next year.

Proposal rejected
NICOSIA, Dec 16, (AP) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, saying Greek Cypriots seemed to have rejected his proposals for unifying the island, vowed yesterday that the breakaway north would not be intimidated by force of arms.

500 detained
ASSIUT, Dec 16, (AP) — Almost 500 Muslim fundamentalist militants have been arrested in a security operation throughout the southern province of Assiut, police officials said today.

Weekend change
CAIRO, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Egypt's official weekend was moved back by one day in a decree ordering the closure of government offices on Fridays and Saturdays.

The weekend for public workers was moved forward last month to Thursdays and Fridays while embassies, banks and joint venture projects continued to take off Fridays and Saturdays.

Fourth good year
TUNIS, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Tunisia expects 1990 will be its fourth good year in a row for tourism despite recent shifts in major markets such as Libya and Britain, Tourism Minister Mohammed Jegham said today.

Talks on prisoners
BAGHDAD, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Red Cross envoy Angelo Gandinger met Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials today to discuss the release of thousands of prisoners of war still held by Iran and Iraq, a Red Cross official said.

Congratulations
BAGHDAD, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi congratulated Iraq today for launching a space rocket which he said would help the Arab fight against Israel, the Iraqi news agency reported.

Yemens poised to be united

ADEN, Dec 16, (Reuter) — Against the historic odds, North and South Yemen are pressing ahead with an ambitious unity plan which could create the Arabian peninsula's most populous country and a new regional power.

The Arab world is littered with discarded unity plans. But the two Yemeni governments, despite sharply differing ideology, are now pledged to hold a popular referendum within a year to approve a single constitution.

The North and South have not been united since a few decades in the mid-17th century when the Zaydi ruler Musayyad Mohammed conquered the land from the Ottoman Turks.

The two have since charted strikingly different paths.

South Yemen was dominated by the British, but switched to rigid Soviet-style socialism when it gained independence in 1967.

North Yemen remained tribal, first under the Ottoman Turks and then a local leader, until a coup in 1962 turned it into a market-oriented republic.

On Nov 30, leaders of the two Yemens reached agreement on a timetable for a merger between countries which have fought fierce border wars over the past few years.

Diplomats said powers both inside and outside the region might want to see the unity plan fail.

No precise figures are known but the two Yemens are believed to have a combined population of well over eight million, outnumbering the estimated seven million Saudis.

Shortly before the unity pact was signed in Aden, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal paid a visit to South Yemen to offer financial aid.

Southern officials firmly denied the ensuing allegations that he was trying to buy the South of the agreement.

"I don't think there is any Arab country that does not want Yemeni unity because it will be in the interest of Yemen and stability and security," South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali told Reuters.

"In the last 20 years the two Yemens have had wars and problems between them, and unity will solve those problems. It will help to increase stability in the whole region."

Bahrain pledge to secure Gulf peace

Iran offers exchange of ailing PoWs

MANAMA, Dec 16, (AP) — Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Amir, vowed today to continue efforts to break the deadlock in Iran-Iraq peace talks and secure a lasting settlement to the 8-year Gulf war.

In a speech marking his country's 18th National Day, the Amir stressed Bahrain would work for "a rapprochement in views and narrowing the differences between Iraq and Iran to enable the two countries to reach a lasting and just peace based on the principles of good neighbourliness, non-intervention in each other's affairs and mutual respect."

Bahrain has led moves by the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council, to cement the Aug 20, 1988, ceasefire and formally end the war which destabilised the oil-rich Gulf and its vital shipping lanes.

As chairman of the GCC, Sheikh Isa has exchanged several messages with Tehran and Baghdad. His foreign minister has led efforts to muster international support to persuade the two sides to implement the United Nations Security Council's ceasefire resolution.

Oman will take over the GCC chairmanship, which rotates every year, when the alliance's leaders hold their annual summit in Muscat, Oman's capital, on Monday.

Sheikh Isa affirmed Bahrain's support for the two-year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip and Saudi-led Arab efforts to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

He also expressed satisfaction with the economic integration within the GCC, which is patterned on the European Common Market.

The Amir noted that the GCC moves were "in harmony with the modern world trend for strong economic blocs."

He added: "There is a new world whose features we see as we are about to enter a new century, a world in which no state, however small or big, and not even a superpower, can proceed with development small or big, and not even a superpower, can proceed in isolation from the rest of the world, whose interests have become vastly intertwined."

The Amir marked the celebrations in the central Gulf island state by releasing an unspecified number of prisoners.

In Baghdad, the Middle East head of the International Committee of the Red Cross met senior Iraqi officials today to discuss an exchange of prisoners of war with Iran amid hopes that Tehran will shortly repatriate some of its wounded captives.

Angelo Gandinger discussed the issue with Akram Al Witri, head of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's legal department, the day



after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tehran will free ailing and disabled Iraqis in the hope that Baghdad will reciprocate.

Velayati, speaking at a news conference yesterday at the United Nations headquarters in New York, did not specify how many Iraqis would be repatriated through the ICRC or when.

But he said Tehran was prepared for an exchange of all ailing and wounded PoWs.

There are believed to be more than 1,000 prisoners in this category.

Iran and Iraq have released only a few hundred disabled PoWs since a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August last year halted fighting in the 8-year Gulf war, even though a UN Security Council resolution calls on them to exchange all prisoners.

Peace talks have been deadlocked, leaving the PoWs, some of them held for nine years, languishing in prison camps for the last 16 months.

Ethnic tension rises in Israel

Large influx of Soviet Jews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 16, (AP) — As many as 300,000 Soviet Jews are expected to immigrate to Israel over the next three years, raising questions about whether the Jewish state can afford such a large influx and inflaming ethnic tensions.

A debate over resettlement costs has pitted many Soviet Ashkenazim, Jews of European descent who feel a need to accept the Soviets, against Sephardis, Israelis of North African and Middle Eastern origin who complain that new immigrants may block the social advancement of poor Israelis.

On radio call-in shows and in letters to newspapers, some Israelis have complained about absorption costs and suggested that immigrants be put in tent camps, like the Jews who arrived here in the 1950s.

The dispute reached its peak last week when a Sephardi militant, Yamin Suissa, announced that he sent a telegram to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush, asking them to curb the Soviet Jewish exodus.

"I don't see people accepting these immigrants with a bear hug," Suissa said.

Suissa's followers and other Sephardi groups protested outside Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's home, handing out soup to the poor and demanding that Israel deal with its current social problems before encouraging more immigrants.

An angry Nathan Sharanovsky — a human rights champion who spent nine years in Soviet labour camps before immigrating in 1986 — sent a letter to Shamir, saying Suissa's statements "contradicted... the very idea of immigration."

A senior Soviet official said yesterday a resolution which would in effect scrap a 14-year-old document equating Zionism with racism would only stir needless controversy in the United Nations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky was commenting at a press conference on US Vice-President Dan Quayle's proposal for a repeal or replacement of the resolution passed by the General Assembly in 1975.

Thailand's 'Mr Condom' tells Egypt not to fear Aids

CAIRO, Dec 16, (Reuter) — The man known in Thailand as "Mr Condom" told Egyptians on Thursday not to fear Aids but to fight the deadly virus with knowledge and preventive measures.

Mechai Viravadya, Thailand's foremost campaigner in the battle against the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or Aids, distributed to students glass key-rings containing condoms and printed with the words "In emergency, break glass."

A deeply conservative people, Egyptians are in many cases unfamiliar with the simple device used by millions to limit the size of their families and protect themselves against the spread of venereal diseases as well as Aids.

Many fundamentalists regard contraception as un-Islamic.

"Possession of a knife does not mean you are going to murder someone," Mechai told a news conference. "Similarly there is no reason to fear the condom on the grounds that it is somehow unclean or going to alter your behaviour for the worse."

Mechai, whose name has in recent years become synonymous in the minds of many Thais with the condom, is visiting Cairo to attend a meeting of the New York-based population council.

A member of the World Health Organisation's global commission on Aids, he addressed students at Cairo's Ain-Shams University on the twin spectres of population growth and Aids, handing out key-rings and anti-Aids t-shirts.

He told reporters later that he estimated that 300,000 people had so far died worldwide of Aids.

"The good news is that no other disease in

medical history has mobilised so great a response internationally," he said.

"The bad news is political apathy and the fact that the disease is spreading," he added.

Mechai is credited in his own country with harnessing the resources of government and commerce in the fight against Aids, including distribution of information of Aids in Christmas cards and booklets for bar girls entertaining foreign clients.

The Thai army has been mobilised in the struggle, giving up time on its radio and television stations for free publicity.

The Harvard-educated campaigner's visit has coincided with local newspaper reports — subsequently denied by the medical authorities — that Egypt had ordered the confinement of Thais arriving at Cairo airport.

EVENTS



Daniella's Children's Party

Last Friday the Danes held a Christmas party at the Ghazelle club. The children had a time of their life, especially when Santa Claus made his eternally popular appearance.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.05 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Watadour Al Dawaer: Arabic serial (part 2)
11.15 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
11.30 That's Incredible: Foreign variety programme
12.30 News Summary
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Bercen: Cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, air-lines and official advertisements

- 6.00 Al Bahr La Yabta Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 2)
7.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat: Local programme
8.00 Scientific Discussion: Local cultural programme, presented by Yousif Al Sultan, prepared by Kuwaiti Chemists Society
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Mamzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (part 6)
10.30 Raee Al Seit: Beduin serial (final part)
11.45 News Summary
1.20 The World Today via Satellite

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The New Three

- Stooges. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Munsters Today "Green Eyed Munster". Louis convinces Herman's wife to enter a contest. She starts

- training and neglects Herman.
7.00 Weird and Wonderful. A look at the strangest things unique to Australia.

- 8.00 News in English
8.30 Bergerac "Tug of War". Bergerac becomes involved in the hunt of a notorious prisoner who kidnaps his daughter.
9.30 Sea Power
10.00 The Robert Guillaume Show. "You Win Some, You Lose Some". Dr Edwards receives a number of husbands and wives. He gives them a chance to express themselves freely...

- 10.30 Bestseller. "George Washington" Part II. As his second term

draws to a close, Washington firmly rebuffs all efforts to persuade him to accept a third term. Not only is he exhausted, but he also feels it is imperative to enact the

first transition of power... Before leaving for Mount Vernon, George and Martha free their slaves...
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite.



KTV 2, 10.30. George Washington

Computer course draws a crowd

THE second week of the computer course, a project by the Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku), was successfully held last Friday, at Kabayan Restaurant. Wordstar was discussed briefly by Arlene Boncillo, a computer programmer. Arlene briefly explained the meaning of Wordstar, its programme and scheme. He then went on to explain the Wordstar menu and now it is displayed.

The participants were grouped into teams so as to be able to apply their knowledge practically with computers after the lectures. All members were delighted when it was their turn to sit at the computer and apply what they freshly learned.

Joel Boncillo, a Computer Engineer at Kay & Associates, will discuss Lotus 123 next Friday together with Manuel V. Banez, Administrator of Yousuf Al Ghanim & Sons who will explain another important programme in the course.

Rudy Ocampo, Manager of Echo Electronics will be enlightening all the students about the commands in the DOS during the application of Wordstar, with Jonathan A. Gonzales, a Financial Accountant of the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Manny Inserto, Kapilku's President outlined the forthcoming subjects of the course: Lotus 123, Symphony and Data Base III plus.

Kapilku's Auditor Boda Borja is the chairman of the course and Sarah Macarimbang Vice President for Social & Cultural Affairs, is the over-all co-ordinator. The course is organised by Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku) and sponsored by Kabayan Restaurant.

All the Certificates of Attendance on Hair Science, Baking, Cooking and Hotel and Restaurant Operations Class are now available from VP Sarah Macarimbang. For further information ring her on 4843447.



Kapilku computer students listening to Rudy Ocampo (right) discussing Wordstar.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

IAC Children's Competition
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

Music Night

MUSIC Night at "The Lonesome Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held on December 17, at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

KOSA meeting

KOSA Annual General Meeting - 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

Saaz Aur Aawaz

FEB 7: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bise Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Funitees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Study in Britain
ARE you interested in studying AUTOMOBILE or AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING in Britain?

If you are then come and visit the British Council Education Office on 16 & 17 December, for information and advice about the many different courses that are available.

Kuwait Welsh Society

A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

Pongal celebrations

Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481. Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

People's Trust Club
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel. New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

Musical evening

"UPSANA" one of the leading musical groups is conducting their 6th musical programme on Friday, December 22 at 5.30 pm at Funitees. The programme contains most of the latest hit songs from Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam. For entry passes please contact Tel. 3987249/3986956/398739-6/5643643/ 5638762/4315374/ 4314018.

Southerners

DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X'mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al Mirage Ballroom) to the excellent music by Top Ranks and Mr Leo's Magic Show. Santa Clause will be distributing gifts to all kids and other attractive gifts to prize winners. Fun and entertainment for entire family starting from 10am on December 22, 1989. For passes contact Ligory on 2425705 or 2412444.

Cultural function

ON the occasion of Victory Day of Bangladesh, a cultural function will be organised by the Bangladesh Association on Friday, Dec 22, at 6.00 pm at the Sharq Co-operative auditorium. All Bangladeshis are invited to the programme.

Kalpak's drama competition

Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat Kuwait.

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Kuwait Nomads R.F.C

THE Kuwait Nomads Annual Xmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 21 at 7.30 pm. For more information contact: S. Hill on 5391720, R. Houston on 5658435 or G. Adams on 5644533.

Goodbye 1989

SUPER Top Ranks present the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Popular dance "Ghaza-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara" from Trivedi by Valencia Rose Bud Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen, will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 29 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's Starlight Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Kabil Fawzi on 4879455, Tennakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

Christmastide 1989

A series of Holy functions will take place at the Holy Family Cathedral starting Dec 24. On this date, there will be Holy Masses from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm in English and Konkani. Procession and Pontifical High mass will be at 11.00 pm. On Dec 25 the Holy Masses will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm in five different languages. On Dec 31 the Holy Masses will start at 7.00 am to 11 pm in English and Konkani and on New Year's, they will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, again in five different languages. For more information contact 2434637.

Kapilku meeting

KAPISANANG Pilipino sa Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold an Officer's Meeting on Tuesday, December 19 at Kabayan Restaurant at 7.30 pm. Topics to be discussed include: Miting de Advance on December 22 at Philippine Embassy premises at 1.00 pm. Computer course and awarding of Certificate of Attendance; and Kapilku's Statement of Accounts.

British Council

STORY time and Father Christmas at the British Council, Thursday, 21 Dec., 10.00 am - 12 noon. Come and have lots of fun (Christmas stories, cartoons, games and refreshments) and a word/photograph with Father Christmas. Children of ages 3-7 are invited. Kindly book seats by calling 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227. Please note that only children with tickets (free, but will have to be collected from the Library) will be admitted. P.S. to Parents - Bring your camera.



Malayalee Samajam honours Indian Players

"The contribution of Keralites in the sports are remarkable in India and it is appreciable that Kuwait Malayalees are also promoting the sports activities among the Indian community here." Varghese Gee, First Secretary of the Indian embassy said at a meeting held by Kuwait Malayalee Samajam congratulating the Indian Volley Ball Players, who are on a short visit here.

Thomas Joseph, President of Kuwait Malayalee Samajam presided over the function at Rubiana Restaurant and he remarked that Malayalee Samajam is the pioneer of conducting volleyball tournament among the Indians in Kuwait and always Samajam adopted a policy of encouraging sports talents in India as well as in Kuwait.

In a felicitation speech Rajan Daniel congratulated the players and wish them all success in their future career.

Later, Malayalee Samajam medals were given by the president to Johnson who represented India for 9 times, Danikutty who represented the state of Kerala, Neelu Koshy who represented the Junior Indian Team, Joseph Oommen who represented Kerala schools at Kattak National and Renji John who represented the state of Karnataka.

C.S. John, Vice-President of Samajam welcomed the guests and the General Secretary Thomas Kuruvilla, proposed the vote of thanks.

Lecture & Video: The school system in England & Wales

HOW is the British school system currently structured? What is the National Curriculum? Why has GCSE replaced GCE "O" levels? Find out by coming to our lecture and video showing. In the British Council Gallery on Saturday 23rd December from 6.00 - 7.30. Please telephone to reserve your seat.

Discover the world down under

Learn to scuba dive. Classes will be in small groups. Course is for approximately 6 weeks beginning early January. Padi Certification upon completion of Open Water Course. For details visit Discover Scuba Nights at Kuwait International Hotel on 5th and 8th January or call 2530000/8050 (Antony Kingma).

SPORTS

IAC table tennis THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Al Andalus
Nowhere to Hide
Salmiyah
Hall booked

Al Hamra
Main Azad Hoon
Drive-in
Licence to Kill

Al Firdous
Main Azad Hoon
Fahad
Aakhri Muqabla

Al Jahra
Arabic film
Granada
Arabic film
Salsabikha
Feel the Motion

Jleeb
Pooram
Ahmadi Drive-in
Solace

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Souk Wajef
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli & Negra
Haditha Pharmacy
Tunis St
Salmiya
Al Samah Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St
Fahad
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Complex St
Kheitan
Ghazwa Pharmacy
Northern St
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Co-op. Society

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.11 am
Zohr	11.44
Asr	2.34 pm
Maghreb	4.52
Isha	6.15

Farewell to the Castellinos

A fond farewell to Mr & Mrs Gabriel Castellino, who are leaving Kuwait for good after 30 years. Best wishes to the couple from family, friends and well-wishers.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market shows signs of decline

Alshall stock price indices

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Dec 13, 1989 an average of 41.0 points with a decrease of 0.44 point — 1.06 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday, Dec 6, 1989. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.84 with an increase of 0.01 point — 0.02 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market report.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 38.5 million shares at a daily average of 7.7 million shares with an increase of 12 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 6.88 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 4.56 million shares at a daily average of 0.91 million shares with a decrease of 23 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.18 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD10.2 million at a daily average of KD2.04 million, a decrease of 25 per cent from last week's daily average of KD2.72 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.18 million at a daily average of KD0.036 million, a decrease of 49 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.071 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 49 per cent of total trading against 69 per cent last week. The Gulf Bank had the lead at 28 per cent followed by the Commercial Bank at 27 per cent and Burgan Bank at 12 per cent. The investment sector came second at 44 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 75 per cent followed by Coast Investment and Development Company at 9 per cent and National Investment Company at 7 per cent. The real estate sector came third at 2.75 per cent in which United Realty Company had the lead at 68 per cent followed by Kuwait Real Estate Company at 21 per cent and Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company at 11 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain and Middle East Bank had the lead at 51 per cent followed by Arabian General Investment Company (Shuaib) at 41 per cent and Bahrain International Bank at 6 per cent.

The market showed signs of decline as two indicators increased and four decreased. The concentration of trading shifted from the banking sector to the investment sector and there was also shift in the concentration on the traded companies within the sectors themselves.

The reaction on the release of the joint economic report of the government and private sector was a short term one. This is not a negative indicator but rather the opposite as it shows that the investors are more aware and have learned certain lessons from the past experiences.

Although the joint economic report recommends the restructuring of the companies, such task will take some time and it might not be accomplished if faced by some obstacles as usually is the case. The restructuring of the companies and establishment of investment funds will not have effect on the market before one year is passed to allow for the evaluation of the performance of the related companies. Some recommendations of the joint economic report will have a negative effect even if they had a short-term positive effect on the market.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wed. 13/12/89	Wed. 06/12/89	Change points
Banking Sector	126.11	126.11	—
The National Bk	33.25	33.25	—
The Gulf Bk	33.25	33.25	—

The Comm. Bk	25.03	25.03	—
Al Ahli Bk	37.34	37.34	-0.50
Bk of K. & ME	32.84	33.31	-0.47
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	31.29	31.71	-0.43
Burgan Bk	27.58	27.58	—
Kt Finance House	85.69	87.34	-1.65
Sector Index	51.01	51.23	-0.22
Inv. Sector	9.92	9.37	0.55
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.93	8.59	0.34
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	29.34	29.34	—
IFA	151.25	151.25	—
Comm. Facilities	58.82	62.75	-3.92
National Inv.	94.38	92.13	2.25
Kt. Inv. Proj.	101.18	101.18	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	33.84	33.70	0.14
Sector Index	37.67	40.07	-2.39
Ins. Sector	23.46	25.00	-1.54
Kt. Ins. Co.	51.86	50.33	1.53
Gulf Ins. Co.	54.12	54.12	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	37.13	38.54	-1.41
Sector Index	16.31	16.57	-0.25
Real Est. Sec.	5.29	5.22	0.06
Utd. Realty	37.43	37.43	—
Nat. Real Est.	71.43	72.22	-0.79
Proj. of Kt.	16.82	16.70	-0.08
Sector Index	10.22	10.91	-0.68
Ind. Sector	84.55	85.65	-1.10
Kt. Cmt. Co.	116.52	116.52	—
Ref. Ind.	62.22	62.22	—
Gulf Cables	29.37	29.37	—
Kt. Pharm.	157.68	157.68	—
Sector Index	9.51	9.51	—
Services Sector	66.67	67.68	-1.01
Kt. Cmpt. Co.	34.53	34.53	—
Kt. Chems. Co.	352.38	357.14	-4.76
Pub. Whousg Co.	61.64	62.34	-0.70
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	25.22	25.22	—
M. Tele. Syst.	11.05	11.05	—
Sector Index	74.07	110.01	-35.94
Food Sector	74.71	75.86	-1.15
L. Trad. & Transp.	34.21	38.37	-4.16
Utd. Fisheries	41.00	41.43	-0.44
Kt. Ind. Poultry			
Kt. Food Co.			
Sector Index			
Overall Index			

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wed. 13/12/89	Wed. 06/12/89	Change points
First G. Bk.	223.68	223.68	—
Bah. Intl. Bk.	86.90	86.90	—
Bah. M.E. Bk.	90.17	91.12	-0.95
A. Gen. Inv. (Shuaib)	43.18	42.42	0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.62	17.62	—
G. Med. Proj.	12.12	12.12	—
Total Index	64.84	64.83	0.01

— Base period 31/12/1983.
— All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Ryzhkov seeks backing for economic reform plan

MOSCOW, Dec 16, (Reuters): Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov appealed to parliament today to back his plan for economic revival despite its shortcomings.

"We understand that the government programme has drawbacks," he told the Congress of People's Deputies, winding up a four-day debate. "But as far as possible it takes into consideration our real potential, the extent of our development and sets targets for the future."

The government plan, spelled out by Ryzhkov on Wednesday, sets a course for the country's gradual transformation from a planned to a market economy, but stops well short of the radical changes recommended by the country's leading economists.

During the debate, the programme was criticised from left and right. Some deputies accused the government of attempting to revive capitalism while others said it amounted to a set of half-measures which could not succeed.

Ryzhkov defended his plan, saying that neither conservative nor ultra-radical measures would provide solutions and rejecting the application of "shock therapy", which he said could cost the country dear.

"We can neither follow the road of small-scale, partial and slow measures to improve the economic mechanism, nor plunge into the abyss of market chaos without creating the necessary conditions and effective controls," he said.

The prime minister attacked the 400-strong inter-regional group of radical reformist deputies, which he said had expressed its opposition to the government programme.

"A failure to support the plan would amount to a refusal to take any action at all," he said.

Earlier, Ryzhkov and his programme had come under attack from the influential deputy Georgy Arbatov, head of the Academy of Sciences' United States and Canada Institute and a foreign policy adviser to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Arbatov said the proposed measures failed to take steps towards dismantling the military-industrial complex, which he said was costing the country far more than it could afford.

Trade dispute

Nepal praises Indian stance

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Dec 16, (AP): King Birendra praised the new Indian government's attitude today and offered his "constructive co-operation" to help the giant neighbour resolve a trade dispute with his landlocked kingdom.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government closed 13 of the 15 trade routes along the 1,750-kilometre (1,094-mile) border with Nepal in March, blaming Kathmandu for wanting to end a preferential trade treaty that expired.

This has caused widespread shortages in Nepal, which largely depends on India for imports.

In a televised address marking Nepal's Constitution Day, King Birendra welcomed the positive attitude of the new government in New Delhi and promised to adopt "a policy of constructive co-operation to develop friendship."

Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government came to power on Dec 2 after Gandhi's Congress Party failed to win a majority in November elections.

Singh has said he wants to consolidate relations with Nepal and has vowed there will be no "arm-twisting or bullying."

"In the life of an individual or a nation, there may come a time when one suddenly finds oneself face to face with an unexpected turn of events," the king said in obvious reference to the dispute with India.

ONGC proposes to intensify exploration

Major gas discovery

By Thomas Abraham Arab Times staff

NEW DELHI, Dec 16: India's Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has made a major breakthrough in the Kutch offshore area by striking gas at a well near Bhuj in the western state of Gujarat.

The well is producing gas at the rate of 1.24 lakh cubic metres per day and further testing is being carried out, ONGC sources said.

Exploratory drilling in Kutch offshore dates back to 1975 when a part of the 28,000 km area was awarded to an international company, Reading and Bates, for drilling. The company relinquished its concession after drilling only one well without any encouraging results.

ONGC later carried out detailed seismic surveys and drilling in the area and oil was struck some time ago at one well.

The discovery of commercial quantities of gas in the shallow waters now close to the coast has opened up vast areas for further exploration, the sources said.

The Kutch offshore basin is considered a highly prospective area with hydrocarbon reserves of nearly 380 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent of gas. ONGC proposes to intensify exploration in the area by adding one more rig in early 1990.

According to the sources, since 1980, as many as 38 discoveries have been made in western and eastern offshore basins of India, which are now being developed for commercial production.

Exploratory activity in the continental shelf of India, spread over an area of about 3.8 lakh sq kms, has established in place geological reserves of oil and gas to the extent of 2.4 billion tonnes of oil and 865 billion cubic metres of gas.

The outlook for the Indian offshore during the next decade appears bright. Current production of oil is around 22 million tonnes per annum and that of gas around 14 billion cubic metres per annum. This is expected to exceed 31 billion tonnes and 20 billion cubic metres, respectively, by mid-1990s and to 40 billion tonnes and 27 billion cubic metres by the turn of the century.

During the eighth five-year plan (1990-95), a production build up of close to nine million tonnes is expected from the eastern and western offshore. The entire increase of about seven million tonnes from western offshore would come from fields other than Bombay High. As a result, the share of Bombay High in the total production from western offshore is expected to fall from 57 per cent in 1990 to about 40 per cent by 1995.

ONGC has also drawn up a plan for production of oil from the fractured basement rocks of western offshore. Production from this source is expected to be about one million tonne per annum by 1993.

Meanwhile, Col S.P. Wahi, who has been chairman of ONGC continuously since 1981, has resigned after the new government in Delhi refused to extend his term. He handed over charge to his deputy vice-chairman P.K. Chandra, who is among those tipped to succeed him.

Cold drives heating oil prices up

Market tight

NEW YORK, Dec 16, (UPI): Driven by bitter cold weather in the northeast, US heating oil prices soared more than 3 cents a gallon yesterday, and crude climbed above the important \$21-a-barrel level with a boost from a belated declaration by Panama that it is in a "state of war" with the United States.

"Weather was the dominant factor today," said Peter Beutel of Elders Futures Inc. in New York.

As heating oil rose, it triggered buy orders at the 69-cent and 70-cent levels, adding momentum to the rise, the analyst said.

Well into afternoon trading after heating oil had already risen more than 2 cents, Panama's National Assembly sniped at the US as it formally declared Gen. Manuel Noriega to be its head of government.

The White House dismissed the latest actions of the assembly and Noriega as "another hollow step in an attempt to force his rule on the Panamanian people."

Alaska crude oil is shipped through the Panama Canal to the US East Coast, and the report helped drive the price of crude through the key \$21 a barrel level.

"It provided impetus mainly for the crude," said Steve Platt, senior energy analyst with Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. in Chicago. "Certainly there was a boost of the heating oil as well off the Panama situation, but the dominant factor was the weather."

Heating oil finished the day on the New York Mercantile Exchange at 70.42 cents a gallon, up 3.14 cents on the day and 4.05 cents on the week. Volume was heavy at 44,576 contracts, more than double the daily average.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude settled at \$21.10 a barrel, after cresting the \$21 level, up 45 cents on the day and 62 cents on the week.

WTI was also being quoted on the US Gulf Coast spot market, where crude is traded for cash, at \$21.10 a barrel, up 45 cents on the day and 65 cents on the week.

Influenced by the bitter cold and a developing tight market in the northeastern United States, gas oil, or European heating oil, contracts for January delivery finished the day on London's International Petroleum Exchange at \$20.4 a ton, or 65.17 cents a gallon, a hike of 1.03 cents on the day but a loss of 5.03 cents on the week.

Gas oil rose yesterday "because of the ultra-cold weather in the United States," said Mari Lughan, an analyst in the London office of Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

Buglass said a tightening US market also was indicated by the widening spread between the price of heating oil on the New York harbour cash market and the futures contract price on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

She said it had increased from about a penny a gallon early this week to more than 3 cents yesterday.

Gas oil had lost 4.07 cents over the last three IPE trading sessions as warmer weather and rain settled in over Europe this week.

Jordanian trade team in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Dec 16, (Kuna): A five-member Jordanian economic delegation led by secretary-general of Jordan's Ministry of Planning Safwan Toqan arrived here today to attend a meeting of the Pakistan-Jordan joint ministerial commission, opening here tomorrow.

Talking to newsmen on arrival at the Islamabad airport, he said during the four-day visit to Pakistan the members of his delegation would discuss ways and means of co-operation in the fields of defence, trade, industry, science and technology.

Toqan said that there were a number of things which Jordan wanted to learn from Pakistan in science and technology.

In trade and industry field, the senior Jordanian official said, his country was willing to forge joint venture in phosphate fertiliser-making.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's production of crude oil has reached close to half-way mark of national oil requirements, according to country's Minister of Petroleum Jehangir Badar.

He told a special meeting of the federal cabinet today that indigenous crude production had gone up to 59,000 barrels per day.

The national oil requirements are of the order of about 120,000 barrels per day. Pakistan meets oil requirements from Gulf countries, mainly from Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Jehangir Badar told the government meeting that the government had set a target of reaching 55,000 bpd mark during 1989.

US and Poland sign farm pact

WARSAW, Poland, Dec 16, (AP): The United States and Poland signed an agreement today to co-operate in the development of Polish farming and increased agricultural trade between the two countries.

The agreement, signed by US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter and his Polish counterpart Czeslaw Janicki, calls for establishing a joint agricultural development and trade committee of US and Polish experts.

The committee will look for ways to share farm technology and improve transportation and marketing facilities in Poland and boost production efficiency and quality of life in the often impoverished Polish countryside.

Specific working groups for such topics as agriculture extension services, marketing and inspection and economic and scientific research may also be developed.

It was Yeutter's second visit to Poland in two weeks.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 16/12/89			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
01	Anasol Power	Algh Barwill	4842988
02	Sesomart	GH & Q	4347815
05	Jupiler	Algh Barwill	4842988
07	Hyundai No.12	KTS	2436920
09	Kashima	ISA	2441860
10	Mizil	Alghwan	4146818
14	Anquing Jiang	M. Bahar	2401900
18	Ligianan Universal	KSA & Q	4347815
21	Alqurain	L. Stock	2434177
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
16/12	Ber Obatin	SMS	4745471
16/12	Alharmony	United	2437958
16/12	Rashidat	KSA	4843150
17/12	Ben Alahier	KSA	4843150
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
02	Northeast Breeze	RSMS	2423642
06	Damodar Gang	Algh Barwill	4842988
14	Ocean Great	United	2437958
19	Stellar Venus	Algh Barwill	4842988
VSL AT ANCHORAGE			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
17/12	Naguan	RSMS	2423642
17/12	Castano	Algh Seafright	4745533
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
15/12	Khalid Ibn Al Waleed	UASC	4843150
15/12	Dubai	UASC	4843150
17/12	Bl. Charlotte	Al Kamsal	2423642
17/12	West Phalasia	Bahabani	2423642
18/12	Marsik Fero	M.A. Bahar	2412083
19/12	Montecore	Algh Barwill	4842988
23/12	Huame Mette	Algh Barwill	4842988
23/12	Prabhu Gopal	Algh Barwill	4842988
23/12	Al Wastay	UASC	4843150
25/12	Amis	Algh Barwill	4842988
06/01	Flag Merisidki	Algh Seafright	4745533
10/01	Molda	Algh Seafright	4745533
15/01	Oed Alghwan	CH & Q	4347815

Compiled by: Alghwan Barwill Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4842988/4843150 ext. 3828/3646 Fax No: 4845712, TLX 22084 BARWIL KY TLX.

UK inflation picks up again

LONDON, Dec 16, (Reuters): Britain's annual rate of inflation, stubbornly defying government efforts to rein it in, veered higher in November, official figures yesterday showed.

Year-on-year inflation rose to a four-month high of 7.7 per cent in November from 7.3 per cent the previous month, but the jump had been widely anticipated because of a one percentage point increase in home loan interest rates last month.

Financial markets took the news in their stride, having feared a figure as high as eight per cent.

"On balance I think it's quite encouraging. The increase in inflation this month is wholly due to the increase in mortgage rates," said economist Roger Bootle at Midland Montagu.

Treasury Minister Norman Lamont said the government was still on course towards its goal of gradually reducing inflation to 5.75 per cent by the final quarter of next year.

"That's what we've said we'll do, and we will pursue the policies to bring that about," he said. "We've got a temporary problem now and we're determined to get it down again."

Opposition Labour Party financial spokesman John Smith said the government had failed to bring prices under control.

"We have high inflation and it looks like staying so — twice as high as many of our competitors in the European Economic Community," Smith said.

Stockmarket prices rose slightly from morning lows, reflecting relief that the inflation figure was no worse, but fell on news of a sharp rise in the October US trade deficit.

The underlying rate of inflation, excluding home loans, was unchanged from October at 6.1 per cent, still the highest level since February 1983.

The government has tried to bring down inflation by using high interest rates as a brake on consumer spending, but economist Bootle said high unit labour costs and the weakness of the pound sterling remained a problem.

"Even though retail sales are very weak and will continue to be so, inflation is likely to stay for some time," he said.

Friday's figures followed bad news on inflation earlier in the week, with a announcement that average earnings shot up by 9.25 per cent in the year to October after rising nine per cent in the year to September.

With workers pressing wage claims of 10 per cent or higher, the government has warned high pay settlements could keep inflation high and threaten jobs.

New economic recovery plan

Cairo faces acute food shortage

CAIRO, Dec 16, (Agencies): Egypt has announced a new economic recovery programme aimed at relieving the country's \$29.7 billion foreign debt.

The announcement was made today by Prime Minister Atif Sedki at the People's Assembly.

In his three-hour statement, Sedki named the country's major problems as the acute food shortage, activation of the public economic sector, foreign debts, balance of payments deficit, unemployment and drugs.

Sedki called for a measure of freedom to the public sector to improve its performance.

"The public sector should be free in pricing its products in a way not to cause any economic burdens that could affect its profits," Sedki said in an obvious gesture to lifting of subsidy on essential commodities.

At this point, the MPs interrupted the premier's address and he was about to discontinue before intervention of the speaker who persuaded him to carry on.

"Liberalisation of the public sector begins from freeing it from government control by really lifting off its hand from setting up companies affiliated to the public sector. There should be freedom to that sector to run its affairs according to economic principles," he said.

He explained that the government was keen on reshaping the public sector, noting it needed to be developed, a matter, he said, which should have been made 15 years ago when Egypt opted to economic openness.

Responding to persuasions by the MPs to explain the government's position toward the recent controversy over the situation of Egyptian workers in Iraq, Sedki admitted that the rate of Egyptian mortality in that country was increasing but he attributed that to the large numbers of Egyptians in Iraq, about 2.5 million workers.

He denied deliberate killing of Egyptians in Iraq except in one case where one of them was knocked down by a car during a procession of Egyptians rejoicing the qualifying of their national team to the World Cup finals.

Meanwhile, Egypt paid \$2 billion in one year in debt servicing, Sedki said yesterday.

Sedki, outlining the main points of his address to Parliament today, told reporters the \$2 billion were paid during the fiscal year 1988/89 which ended on June 30.

He also said Egypt's imports exceeded exports by 50 per cent. A third of the imports were foodstuffs, Sedki added without giving any figures.

Egypt, the most populous Arab state, has a \$50 billion foreign debt and often runs out of hard currency to meet debt repayment deadlines.

It must repay the United States \$50 million of military credits in the next few days or risk suspension of American aid, economists said.

North Sea oil braved 1980s price war, looks to new boom

LONDON, Dec 16, (Reuters): The North Sea looks like being a major supplier of oil well into the 1990s, confounding forecasts that it would prove a short-lived phenomenon.

Nowhere did Opec strategists seem to call it so badly wrong in the 1980s. The theory was that if Opec turned up the taps and forced down petroleum prices, as it did in 1985, it would make it uneconomic to pump high-cost North Sea oil.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, tempering her free market zeal, would place state curbs on her country's supply to help Opec defend prices and give it back lost market share.

But Britain refused to curb output and a revenue-pinched Opec blinked. Saudi Arabia halted the free-for-all and cut its own supply in order to support a world oil price of \$15 to 18 a barrel.

Although this was down 50 per cent from the early 1980s, it has apparently been enough to keep the North Sea going.

"Fears were expressed that the oil companies might simply abandon the North Sea as their profit margins were wiped out," says Thatcher's Energy Secretary, John Wakeham.

"Today the offshore sector is booming again as if the price collapse had never happened," he told the 1989 oil and money conference in London.

December marked the 25th anniversary of the first exploratory well to be drilled in the Anglo-Norwegian North Sea.

More than 60 oil and gas fields are now operating with some 20 under development.

Combined British and Norwegian output now exceeds 3.5 million barrels per day (BPD) and accounts for more than five per cent of total world oil supply.

British output is down around two million barrels from a 1985 high at 2.6 million BPD. But researchers at stock-brokers Country Natwest Woodmac, who specialise in North Sea matters, say a second peak is possible as high as 2.3 or 2.4 million BPD.

"Barring unforeseen events, British output is likely to remain comfortably above two million until the mid-1990s before declining," said Woodmac analyst David Black.

Norway is still on the way up and industry executives think output could go above 1.8 million BPD in 1992-96 from 1.55 million now.

A British 1989 licensing round brought 414 applications for new drilling acreage.

The bid fields like Statfjord, producing some 630,000 BPD have almost certainly all been discovered. But the secret, says the industry, is new technology.

Technology makes it possible to tap more oil than previously expected from existing fields. It has also shown up hitherto unsuspected oil-bearing rock strata. Above all, it cuts costs making small fields profitable even at weaker prices.

"Fields are now being developed at costs levels which were almost unimaginable at the time of their discovery," says Sir Peter Walters, chairman of British Petroleum Co Plc.

Typical of the high-tech approach is a planned joint venture by Exxon Corp and Royal Dutch/Shell to develop their "ganer" cluster of four small fields, where one platform will collect oil from Subsea satellite wells.

One seabed well will be nine miles (15 km) away.

New, high-strength steels and floating production platforms are among other innovations.

"Costs for developing more than two-thirds of the world's remaining offshore oil and gas reserves may be substantially reduced by new technology, much of it emerging from the North Sea," says Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, an oil newsletter.

But PIW says costs may still rise because the 1980s glut put many oil service firms out of business. Operators in the North Sea already want more tax relief on some projects.

Safety is another question mark. Nearly 500 lives have been lost in 25 years of North Sea development, according to a British firm of consultants, Smith R. Energy analysts. A 1988 gas explosion on platform Piper Alpha killed 167 men.

The poor make rich nervous

New Yorkers worry

NEW YORK: (Reuters) New York City has thousands of bank branches where customers may withdraw cash or transact other business at any time by using automated teller machines located in halls attached to the main building.

Now, however, many New Yorkers who appreciate the convenience of the ubiquitous bank machines are beginning to worry about loiterers and beggars who sleep inside the halls or act as "doormen" outside.

It's a case of compassion for the down-trodden clashing with concern for personal safety.

With winter approaching, more and more homeless people will be huddling in many of more than 1,000 automatic banking halls in the city.

The situation is likely to be exacerbated by the renewed efforts of transportation authorities, fast food restaurants and libraries to remove the homeless from public areas.

One resident of the upper west side of Manhattan was recently observed desperately slamming the door of a hall before a dishevelled drunk could get inside.

"I give money to panhandlers (beggars) almost every day and, morally, I have no problem letting homeless people in here to get out of the cold," the bank customer explained. "But that guy is a bit out of it and there's just no way I'm going to withdraw 100 dollars with him looking over my shoulder."

It's quite easy for homeless people, beggars or even thieves to gain entry to cash machine alcoves, which usually have locked doors opened by plastic bank cards. Whether they are coming or going, many bank customers routinely hold the doors open for others — some of whom do not necessarily have the proper card.

There are panhandling "doormen" who grab the door after a customer unlocks it and then hold the door for anyone who approaches, hoping to receive a "tip." Some bank lobbies have broken door locks.

"I'm not afraid of the homeless people," confided a woman employed by a major newspaper who insisted on anonymity. "It's the people who can come in because the homeless are there holding the door open that worry me."

Four banks now send out security patrols to visit branches each night or station security guards in banking halls.

A fourth financial institution has curtailed the hours of one automatic teller, a move the industry says may become more common in dealing with loitering and begging.

"Our security people are working closely with our marketing people to decide whether the economics of stationing a guard in a vestibule would make sense at any particular location. It would depend on the number of transactions at a given vestibule," Lee said.

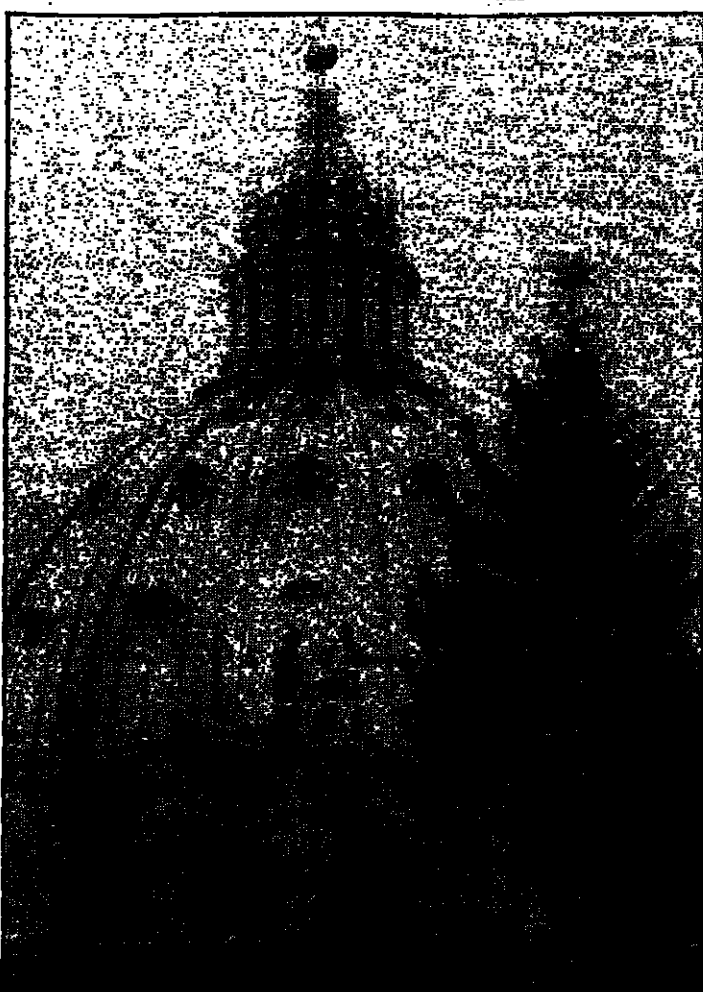
"My guess is that if certain locations prove to be a problem, the banks will simply close them rather than place a guard there."

He said some banks may opt to install their automated teller machines in an exterior wall, so customers will have to stand on the pavement to use them.

There are some who openly advocate giving homeless people refuge in the bank alcoves. In the winter of 1987 an anonymous group of artists plastered the windows of banking halls belonging to the New York City cash exchange, a bank network known as NYC, with posters urging bank customers to "be nice to the homeless. Let them in."

The banking industry says homeless people begging and sleeping in the cash points may intimidate customers but that the homeless rarely commit serious crimes.

The Illinois-based bank administration institute reported a total of 285 violent crimes against bank machine customers in 1986, the most recent year for which statistics are available. The 285 crimes were committed during the course of more than one billion transactions, it said.



Austrian gift

Vatican workers on cranes decorating a 30-metre tall Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square. The tree, donated to Pope John Paul II by the Austrian people, was placed in the centre of St. Peter's Square at the suggestion of the pontiff. (Reuters wirephoto)

Something for everyone

Home video scene: new ones

WHEN Harry met Sally... — Rob Reinder's charming romantic comedy deals with a man and a woman who just want to be friends even though it's so obvious they were made for each other. It takes a long time — 12 years — to convince them of that. Harry (Billy Crystal) and Sally (Meg Ryan) first meet when they share a ride from college to New York where each is embarking on a career, deciding along the way that they have nothing in common. Five years later, a chance meeting brings them together again but only briefly and it's another six years before they meet once more and this time become close friends. Friendship and dependency eventually lead to love. Basically, it's an updated treatment of an old fashioned boy-meets-girl love story told with affection and humour, making for an extremely likeable movie. 1989, 89 minutes, Nelson Entertainment. Rated R. \$89.98.

"Star Trek V: The Final Frontier." — This time the Starship Enterprise really goes where no one has gone before. A renegade Vulcan hijacks the Enterprise and forces it into uncharted territory, beyond the great barrier to the centre of the universe, ostensibly at the behest of God, bringing up the question, "what does God need with a spaceship?" What they find is not exactly heaven. The crew is back, headed as usual by William Shatner who also directed, with comrades Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley and the rest, all very familiar and very welcome. Part spiritual quest, part space adventure, their story likely will remind you of something you saw in the old TV series. But, as usual, it's the interplay between the crew that makes it all work, never mind the somewhat hokey ending. After all, where else would you get to watch Spock singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"? 1989, 107 minutes, Paramount Home Video. Rated PG.

"Renegades" Buster (Kiefer Sutherland) is a young maverick police officer who goes undercover on his own — even his boss doesn't know where he is — in an effort to find a dirty cop who has sold out to the crooks. But, instead, the hunter he becomes the hunted when a jeweller heist he takes part in as part of his cover goes bad. Buster reluctantly teams up with a Lakota Indian named Hank (Lou Diamond Phillips) who is in on the hunt because the crooks murdered his brother and stole a sacred tribal speaker. Though the story has some lapses in logic here and there, it is loaded with action sequences, including one of those wild car chases that runs right through a crowded store as people and merchandise scatter. 1989, 105 minutes, MCA Home Video, rated R. \$89.95.

"Shag the Movie" — four girl buddies, out of high school and ready to get on with their lives, take a final weekend fling on the South Carolina coast in this familiar coming-of-age comedy, a sort of "where the boys are" with lots of dancing. Stars Phoebe Cates, Annabeth Gish, Page Hannah and Bridget Fonda and they all get what they're looking for, more or less. Choreography by Kenny Ortega, who did "Dirty Dancing". 1989, 96 minutes, HBO Video. Rated PG. \$89.99.

marts Interactive VCR teaching system, from Connor Toys. The kids are asked to answer questions about potentially dangerous situations by punching yes or no on a little computer. Some experts contend this is the proper way, a "gentle, positive approach," to reach impressionable youngsters who could be turned off by TV warnings designed for older people.

MUSIC "Live From Lincoln Centre" — James Galway, whose flawless technique on the flute is widely heralded, is a delight to listen to — and watch — in "mostly Mozart," one of the initial programmes on the "live from Lincoln Centre" video project. Playing and conducting, Galway does works by Mozart and Handel and Vivad's "The Four Seasons." Gleaned from the TV series, others include Beverly Sills in "The Barber Of Seville" and "Manon," Baryshnikov doing "Giselle" and "An Evening With Dany Kaye and the New York Philharmonic." Released by Paramount Home Video, \$29.95. Also currently available: A new, six-tape "Lincoln Centre Video-of-the-month" plan, one programme to be sent every other month, \$195.

Billboard's top 10 rentals
1. Batman — Warner Home Video
2. Scrooged — Paramount Home Video
3. Ghostbusters II — RCA-Columbia Pictures Home Video
4. K-9 — MCA Home Video
5. Working Girl — CBS-Fox Video
6. Three Fugitives — Touchstone Home Video
7. Say Anything — CBS-Fox Video
8. Who Framed Roger Rabbit — Touchstone Home Video
9. Rain Man — MGM-UA Home Video
10. Major League — Paramount Home Video

Osteogenesis imperfecta, a rare genetic disorder

Rare disease leaves bones vulnerable to breaks

TAMPA, Florida, (AP) Andrew Rivers is a bright, witty 10-year-old boy whose 27-centimetre (10.6-inch) frame is so brittle his bones break like a china doll.

"We take things one day at a time," said Mary Rivers, whose son has osteogenesis imperfecta, a relatively rare genetic bone disorder for which science has no cure.

It's caused more than 30 fractures so far, stunted Andrew's growth and left him confined to a wheelchair. Doctors don't know if he'll ever walk.

"At the moment there are really no good medical therapies that make a difference long term," said Dr Peter Byers, a Seattle medical geneticist who specializes in inherited diseases,

including osteogenesis imperfecta.

For the short term, surgeons put metal rods through the bones in Andrew's deformed legs to strengthen them. Rodding, exercise and external splinting seem to be the best that medicine has to offer patients who have the disease.

Though no exact count exists of osteogenesis imperfecta patients worldwide, 14 nations have groups that work people suffering from the disease.

The disease results from a lack of collagen or protein in the bone and is either inherited or caused by some mutation in a gene. Patients often triangular heads and barrel chests that can lead to pulmonary and spinal problems.

Andrew has a 7-year-old buddy, Alex Metcalf, who, also suffers from the disease. The two match wits at computer games or giggling on the living room carpet as they bat a sponge ball around. They cheer on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers professional football team from the sidelines during home games.

Alex was born with three breaks and four shortened bones. "Basically, we were told to handle this child as fine crystal," said his father, Matt Metcalf. "But you've got to assess the risk, take precautions, then let them go out and play despite the outcome. The interaction is important."

Sometimes, just twisting during sleep can break a child's limb. Pick-

ing up a baby can fracture the frail bones. Often parents place newborns with the disease between pieces of foam for support when they turn the child or change a diaper.

Andrew broke an arm while asleep, his right leg at six months, his left leg the month after.

"Here we have all this attention on child abuse and I'm carrying around this little body with these casts," Mrs Rivers said. "I was ready to get a T-shirt that read: 'I have brittle bones.'"

The principal of Andrew's school credits Mary and Conrad Rivers for their son's academic and social achievements.

"They're so supportive," Nettie Rossi said. "They explain things, prepare him, then let him go out and

do what he has to do. They don't baby him."

As a result, Andrew plays ball from his wheelchair and does pushups with his class of 27. "He has a really good outlook. I'm sure he has his moments but they don't show here," Mrs Rossi said. "He has a sense of humour, is bright, a good conversationalist and just an all-around good guy. The kids treat him like one of them."

Osteogenesis imperfecta can be so severe it claims a child at birth, or so mild a person may only show the tell-tale blue sclerae, a blue colour to the whites of the eyes, and suffer a few dozen fractures over a lifetime.

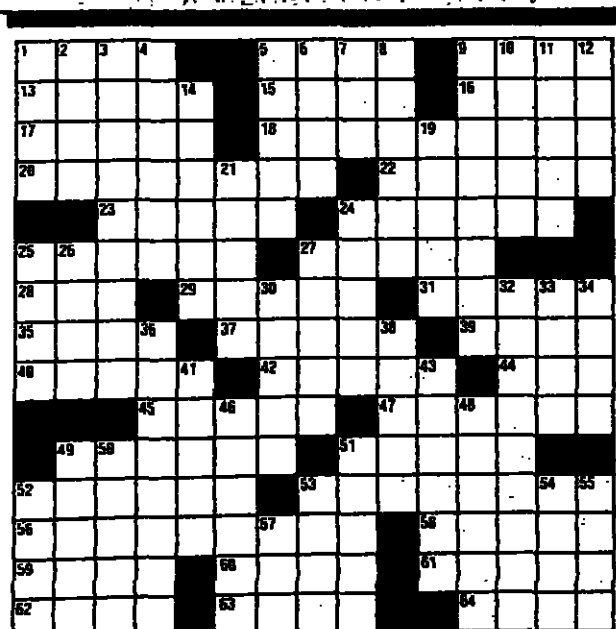
"Some clearly have a shortened life span. They get curvature of the

spine, or suffer compressed lungs, making the heart and lungs work harder. Others have a near normal life," Byers said. "It's devastating news at birth that your child has a mind-boggling disease," said Bob Phillips, 42, treasurer of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation in Tampa.

The foundation formed as a volunteer organization in 1970. In November 1987, members decided to organize to offer support, help collect information about the disease and share it with other patients and members of the medical profession.

Phillips has a mild case of the disease. He said he stopped counting bone breaks after more than 90 during his growing years.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- PM's
 - Secretary
 - Biblical weed
 - Sainted woman
 - "Rainbow's End" author
 - Surrounded by
 - Coals
 - Suitcase of old
 - Send
 - Spiritually
 - Recently
 - "God bless us — one!"
 - Dickens
 - Works by French artist
 - Filar
 - More resentful
 - Southern constellation
 - Title for Macbeth
 - Renaissance fiddle
 - me your ears: Julius Caesar
 - Copulent
 - Hindu god
 - West Pointer
 - Actress
 - Lanchester and namesakes
 - "Le Coq —"
 - Rumsky-Korsakov opera
 - Turbot's cousin
 - Shredder
 - Set into motion
 - grudge (resent)
 - Sun is its capital
 - Famous military headquarters
 - Oppressed
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
- | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| CAME | SPAN | TOISCA |
| ANAT | PAIRE | UNION |
| MIRO | ALIT | RATISO |
| USING | REASON | SIN |
| SEE | ETS | ROD |
| STATING | FACTS | |
| CHATS | CAIA | MORE |
| ROSE | DEIGN | SLOT |
| ANTI | EIN | MEANS |
| BEING | LOGICAL | |
| SAL | OAT | AEF |
| PIET | MAKING | SENSE |
| CARIB | ELLIE | VISA |
| TREVI | LIAH | ETES |
| SLEET | PENS | LAST |

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Neither vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ J 6 4
♥ 10 7 6
♦ A J 9 6 4 2
♣ K

WEST EAST
♥ Q 5 ♠ K 10 9 8
♦ K 5 2 ♥ Q J 4 3
♣ K 8 3 ♦ 10 7
♠ J 8 7 4 3 ♠ 10 9 6
SOUTH
♠ A 7 3 2
♥ A 9 8
♦ Q 5
♣ A Q 5 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 2 ♦ Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠
The standard of play in the recent World Junior Championships was extremely high. This fine defense was turned in by Great Britain's Stuart Tredinnick, sitting in the West seat.

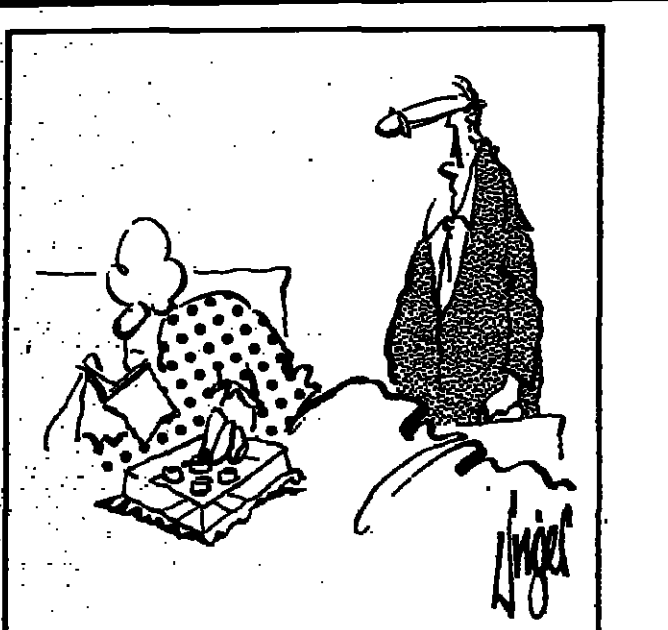
After North's weak two-diamond opening bid, South simply made the value bid. West's normal lead of fourth-best from length and strength proved to be especially ef-

fective, because it knocked out the only entry to dummy before declarer could even get started.

After winning dummy's king of clubs, declarer led a diamond to his queen. Tredinnick ducked—the only player to find this superb bit of deception! Not surprisingly, declarer decided East held the king of diamonds. After fiddling around for a while, trying to get a count of the hand, declarer eventually led a diamond to the ace. When the king did not drop, South could come to only seven tricks.

Did Tredinnick get the Brilliancy Prize for this effort? No! Was there a hand defended with more panache? No! But 11 years ago, during the 1978 World Team Olympiad, France's Dominique Pilon was faced with exactly the same situation, also in the diamond suit. He, too, refused to capture South's queen with his king, and was awarded the Brilliancy Prize for his effort.

We quote from Ecclesiastes I: "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be and there is no new thing under the sun." Tredinnick's problem, quite simply, is that he was born too late!



"We've been married more than seven months now, Beryl. Shouldn't you be ironing or something?"

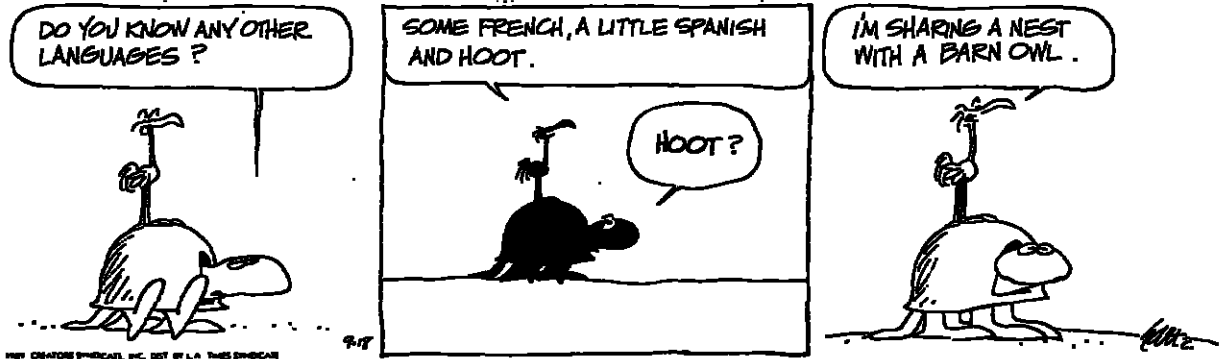
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)
Try not to get in anyone's way. You will be able to pursue one of your great interests. Do not think solely of yourself. Be generous.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will be able to pursue a hobby, but you should not allow it to take up all your spare time. Do not think about work today. And make sure you get enough rest and exercise. Be hopeful.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)
Avoid doing anything that would strain your eyes. You will be able to settle an old bone of contention. Avoid trying to get your own way in all things. Be frank.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)
The prospects are good but you must not dally. You should persevere at learning even though it will not be very easy. You should not expect others to do things for you. Be thankful.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
Avoid doing anything out of spite or attempted revenge. Instead go out of your way to be conciliatory. Avoid eating more sweet and fatty foods than you know you should. Be helpful.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You will make some mistakes and you would be quite wrong to blame them on others. Indeed it will do you credit to accept the blame even in cases where you know you are not fully to blame.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)
Behave towards others as you would wish them to behave towards you. Even though you are not in a good mood try not to be nasty. You would do well to have a little more patience. Be tactful.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)
You will benefit from having a new look at an old situation. You will be able to do something you have long wished to do. However, you must not neglect what has to be done. Be less irascible.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You will have to deal with a person who is rather quarrelsome. Do try to keep calm and to lower the temperature. Make sure you do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be sincere.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
Something that you have not understood previously will now become clear. And you will also discover what needs to be done to get the best out of one of your gadgets, like a camera or a computer. Do not give offence.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You will realise that yours is not the only or necessarily the right way. You will have a good opportunity but if you do not act swiftly you will miss it. Make sure your partner knows you love him. Be willing to learn.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
Something you learnt recently will now stand you in good stead. Do not wait for others to make the first move. Your lucky numbers are 19 and 27. Avoid spending more than you know you can afford. Be wary.

FILIPINO DIGEST

SNIPPETS

File criminal raps against fishermen: Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordóñez reversed the decision of the Palawan Provincial prosecutor's office dismissing the complaint against a fishing boat owner and 19 crew members for illegal fishing and instead ordered the filing of criminal charges against them.

Ordóñez gave Palawan prosecutor Cecilio Belen 10 days to prepare the charges against the alleged illegal fishermen.

He said the damaging evidence against Rafael Villapana, owner of fishing boat F/B RVL was the testimony made by Philippine Marines, team leader of the detachment who arrested Villapana's on Dec 22, 1987.

Ordóñez said Pedros testified that he tried to arrest Villapana and his crew but the suspects fled and fired at the lawmen.

Stabbed by addicts: A man was stabbed dead while trying to fight off five addicts who tried to extort money from him in Morong, Rizal.

Vicente A. Morono, 50, of Barangay Maybangkal, Morong suffered stab wounds in the back, chest and stomach. His head was almost severed from his body.

One of the five young men was identified as a certain Benjamin Fredilla.

Police said Morono was walking in a dark place in the barangay at about 10 pm several metres away from his house when the five, all under the influence of drugs, demanded money from him.

When the youths took Morono's wallet from his pocket, the 50-year-old fought back and shouted for help, prompting the suspects to drag him to a vacant lot where they stabbed him. Police said the suspects fled toward Cardona, Rizal.

Unruly drunk beaten to death: Angono, Rizal — A man was clubbed and beaten to death by his three drinking partners after he allegedly became unruly.

Benjamin Layota, 38, of San Isidro St. Barangay Muzon, Taytay, Rizal, suffered a bashed head.

Police chief Lt. Isidro Benito said passerby spotted the victim's body on a grassy portion of Medaiva Hills subdivision in Angono at 11 pm.

Near Layota's body was a bloody steel pipe, police said.

Cpl Rogelio Gonzaga said Layota had been drinking with three men known only as Antonio, Tony and Edgar meters away from Medaiva Hills when he reportedly began getting noisy.

Gonzaga said according to witnesses, Layota was then dragged by his companions to a vacant lot, and clubbed with a pipe.

The suspects fled toward Binangonan, Rizal.

Truck kills Cavite village head: A Barangay chairman was killed when a truck bumped him while he was crossing the highway in Silang, Cavite Thursday afternoon.

Marcelo Malabanan, 59, of Barangay Lalaan, Silang died at the Velasco Hospital also in Silang from broken bones and skull.

The accident happened at about 5 pm along Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo highway. Malabanan and his two companions — Rogelio Ramos and Edmundo Garcia — were crossing the highway when the Isuzu pickup truck with plate No. DES-812 driven by Francisco Floro of Barangay Wawa, Nasugbu, Batangas, bumped him, said Capt Danny Siongco, 21st PC company commanding officer.

Floro surrendered to the police.

Cop, vendor slay suspect caught: A participant in the murders of a Manila policeman and a fish vendor in Quezon City four days ago was arrested by policemen.

Bernardo Batulid, 28, was surprised in his hideout in the squatters' area on Domingo St., Barangay Holy Spirit, at 5:45 am by policemen led by Corporals Carmelo Lopez and Rene Cruz.

Batulid readily admitted to Pfc. Restituto de Leon and Lt. Fluto Casayuran that he was among the killers of Cpl Gregorio Revillame, 50, and Danilo Danseco, 35, a fish vendor.

"Pero hindi ako ang bumari," Batulid said. He pointed to one "Negro" as the gunman.

Batulid claimed that a group of men invited him to a drinking session when he arrived in their neighbourhood on Republic St., Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City at 8 pm on Sept 3.

During the drinking bout, he and the group, three of whom were jeepney drivers plying the Quiapo route, planned the killing of Revillame.

The drivers, Batulid said wanted Revillame dead because the policeman allegedly collected "long" from them daily.

"Sobra na ang ginagawa niyang (Revillame) pang-abuso sa amin. Walang araw na giawa ng Diyos na hindi siya mangongolekta ng tong sa amin," Batulid quoted the drivers as saying.

Revillame had just left his house on Republic St when a man shot him on Domingo St at 5 am on Sept 4.

As he lay dead, the gunman pumped more bullets into his body. Danseco was gunned down because he knew the gunman, Batulid said.

The gunman then ran toward a squatter area, Batulid said. Two others who served as look outs followed.

Col Rodolfo Garcia said the others in Batulid's arrest were Patrolmen Marcelino dela Pena and Abraham Mendoza.

3 Army men killed in Quezon clash: Three Army soldiers were killed and three others wounded in an encounter with communist rebels in a village in Real, Quezon.

A sketchy military report reaching the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) in Naksar, this city, said the rebels fled on two motorized bancas, taking along with them as hostage two captured Army troopers.

The report did not identify the dead and wounded soldiers but named the two hostages troopers as Sgt. Gonda and Sgt. Cablagan.

The report said the Army troopers belonging to the 59th Infantry Battalion engaged the rebels in a fierce firefight until the guerrillas retreated on two motor bancas toward General Nakar town.

PC hunts suspect in killing of 10: PC soldiers have launched a hunt for a certain Moreno Sabdula in connection with the Aug 23 grenade-bombing of a coronation party in Davao del Sur in which 10 people were killed and 75 were wounded, many of them children.

Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano ordered the special manhunt following reports that Sabdula and other civilian suspects were responsible for the campaign.

The house of another civilian suspect, where there is supposed to be a cache of firearms and explosives, has also been placed under surveillance.

The military earlier picked up three members of the Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) but released two of them for insufficient evidence.

Militiamen Rodolfo Frial and Ely Fuentes were able to prove that they were far from the fiesta site when it was bombed.

However, they were placed under restrictions with the commander of 46th Infantry Battalion.

A third CAFGU member, Francisco Marge, is under technical arrest.

On orders of Defense Secretary Ramos, Montano created a special investigation task force under Region II PC chief Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay Jr. to speed up the investigation of the incident.

The task force is composed of CTS, NBI, and Davao del Sur investigators.

Montano told Ramos that the PC and the Davao del Sur disaster co-ordinating council under Gov. Pedro Ocampo have given P80,000 in cash, several gallons of blood, 18 sacks of rice, and two sacks of brown sugar to the victims.

Three down, 1 missing: Two sisters and a friend drowned and another was reported missing when the current swept them out to sea while swimming off a beach in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Investigators identified them as Erwin Maligro 11, Analiza Pamares, 15, and her elder sister Ofelia, 16, both of Roxas Village, Barangay Lumbangan, Nasugbu.

Witnesses boarded bancas in an effort to save Myreen Maligro but they lost her to the strong current.

Myreen was still missing Capt. Rodolfo Maguibay said.

The children were at the beach in Barangay Baybay-Dagat when the tragedy happened.

Smokey's supervisor killed: A woman supervisor of the Smokey's Sausage World food chain was stabbed to death by robbers who ransacked the store's cash register of money in Sampaloc, Manila.

Aurea Jabate, 25, of 46 Purple St., SSS Village, Marikina was found dead at 8:05 am in the kitchen of Smokey's at 899 R. Papa St.

Traces of blood were found from the cashier's table to the kitchen.

The robbers apparently entered the store as Jabate was inspecting the food to be cooked.

Petroleum prices have risen

Are the transport fares and power rates next?

MOTORISTS have to now pay P1.26 more per litre of gasoline or diesel.

The government allowed gasoline companies to raise the price of oil products by a weighted average of P0.912 a litre, bringing the pump price of premium gasoline up to P7.06 from P5.80 a litre; regular gasoline to P6.69 from P5.43; and diesel and kerosene to P4.96 from P3.70.

With the increases in oil prices, bus and jeepney fares may be raised to P1 for the first four kilometres and 25 centavos for every additional kilometre travelled, Press Secretary Adolfo Azcuna said.

Households and other end-users may also have to pay P1.12 more per kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed if they live in Metro Manila and 30 centavos more if they are living elsewhere, Azcuna said.

The new prices were announced by the Energy Regulatory Board after the proposal was discussed in yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Labour and transport groups immediately denounced the government's decision and said they would organise nation-wide strikes to protest the price increases.

Deogracias Espiritu, secretary-general of the *Pinag-isang Samahang ng mga Trakero at Operators Nation-wide* (Piston) said their group will spearhead a rally at the Luneta to protest the increase and announce their plans for other protest actions.

"Marginal labourers and the small folk would surely feel the pinch of these increases. *Yang mayayaman ay hindi naman nila iniintindihan*," Espiritu said, stressing the poor timing of the announcement with the onset of the Christmas season and the worsening transport crisis.

Espiritu said the strike will be joined by taxi drivers, jeepney operators and labourers in the

bus industry.

Nick Elman, spokesman of the Coalition against Oil Price Increases (Caopi), warned that the new round of price increases to be triggered by the increase in oil prices could precipitate an economic crisis that might bring down the Aquino administration.

Congressmen also said the decision to raise oil prices was untimely and warned that it could fuel a further spiral in prices of prime commodities and other goods.

Several senators said they would introduce measures to cushion the impact of price increases on the consumers and make government absorb the burden of higher oil prices.

In addition to prices of gasoline diesel and kerosene, the ERB order increased the prices of aviation gas from P7.3438 to P8.5238 a litre; fuel oil from P2.8225 to P3.4225; pick-up price of an 11-kilo tank of liquefied petroleum (LPG) from P70 to P88.10; asphalt from P4.84 to P6.02 a litre; and thinner from P7.62 to P8.80.

The new prices of the fuel products include increases in the haulers' and dealers' margin of 10 centavos per litre for premium gas, regular gas, diesel and kerosene.

Shortly after the new oil increases were announced on radio, car owners rushed to gasoline stations in an attempt to beat the midnight deadline for selling at the old prices.

Azcuna said the "provisional" increases in the oil prices were "reasonable and unavoidable."

He said the government had been postponing the increase since March "to spare the people as much as possible the burden of these increases," but the decision could no longer be postponed.

Azcuna said the old rates were based on a price of \$11.14 per barrel of crude in the international market and an exchange

rate of P21.25 to \$1.00, but the price of crude has since risen to \$16.53, while the exchange rate has deteriorated to P21.90 to \$1.00.

This has resulted in the steady depletion of the Oil Price Stabilization Fund, a buffer fund to keep domestic oil prices stable in case of fluctuations in world prices of crude and changes in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

ERB Chairman Marcelo Fernando said that as of the end of November the OPSF deficit was estimated at about P6.825 billion. The amount is expected to swell to P7.5 billion by the end of the year, he said.

The House appropriations and energy committees on Tuesday endorsed a measure creating a P5-billion standby fund to shore up the OPSF. But the ERB said that even if the bill should be passed, the amount would "still be insufficient to cover the ever-increasing deficit of the OPSF."

Azcuna said the government

expects the increases in oil prices and transport and power rates to create "ripple effects" on the prices of other goods and services.

But he added: "As we have done in the past, measures shall be instituted to ensure a gradual and reasonable increase in the prices of other commodities and services and that nobody takes advantage of the situation."

Azcuna did not say how the government would keep the lid on prices, but he ruled out the imposition of price controls on basic commodities.

He said the government has ordered economy measures within the bureaucracy, which include the increase of the reserve fund from 5 per cent to 10 per cent for maintenance, operating expenses and capital outlays, limiting overtime work and use of air-conditioning equipment, restricting travel abroad, and a freeze on hiring of new personnel.

At the House, Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio Cuenco said he was shocked by the decision to raise prices since "people expected the oil price increase to come next year but this will indeed be an added burden on the people."

Assistant Minority Floor leader Salvador Escudero (KBL, Sorsogon) said "it is clear that the bright boys in Malacanang again made a miscalculation."

Members of the opposition bloc in the House said they would reintroduce a bill, shelved earlier to impose price control.

Escudero said the only way to prevent prices of other goods from rising is to impose price controls on basic items. He said the government should set price ceilings on rice, corn, meat, medicines, school supplies and other necessary items.

Several senators said they would support measures that would shift the burden of the oil price increases to the government.

Senators Orlando Mercado, Alberto Romulo, Neptali Gonzales, John Osmeña, Ernesto Maceda, Ernesto Herrera and Juan Ponce Enrile opposed the oil price increase, but admitted it was too late to prevent it.

Mercado, chairman of the committee on trade and commerce, said the oil price increase "is just something we have to face up to."

Mercado said the government should consider imposing price controls to cushion the impact of the price increase.

"I am actually pushing for (price control)," said Mercado. He said another way to cushion the impact of the oil price increase is to cut government expenses to lessen the budget deficit and help control inflation.

"We have to institute extraordinary measures to hold down the prices of basic commodities," said Mercado. "The government would have to show that it is willing to suffer with our people."

Romulo said Malacanang ignored his proposals to prevent oil prices from increasing by increasing the standby fund for oil.

"*Matagal ko nang sinabi sa kanila 'yan*," he said.

However, Romulo said he doubted if controls could keep prices of basic commodities down.

Enrile said the price increases would pull up the prices of other basic commodities, accelerate the inflation rate and force workers to demand a new round of wage increases.

"This administration loves to commit political asocism," he said, referring to wrong decisions taken by the government despite being aware of its ill effects on the economy and to its image.

Maceda shook his head when asked to react on the oil price increase, saying, "*Kawawa na talaga tayo*."

INCREASE OF PETROLEUM PRICES (P/LITER)

	NEW	OLD	INCREASE
PREMIUM	P7.06	P5.80	P1.26 or 21.7%
REGULAR	6.69	5.43	1.26 or 23.2%
DIESEL OIL	4.96	3.70	1.26 or 34.0%
KEROSENE	4.96	3.70	1.26 or 34.0%
LPG	3.76	2.84	0.92 or 32.4%
FUEL OIL	3.42	2.82	0.60 or 21.3%
AVTURBO	8.52	7.34	1.18 or 16.1%
ASPHALT	6.02	4.84	1.18 or 24.4%
THINNER	8.80	7.62	1.18 or 15.5%

Cojuangco's libel suit may be resolved soon



Margarita

THE libel suit filed by Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr and his wife Margarita, against the Inquirer, The Manila Chronicle, and The Manila Times may be resolved soon, according to a spokesman of the couple.

The case stemmed from some articles that the three newspapers published in November 1987, mentioning an alleged \$1-million payoff made by Australian businessman Ray Lord, owner of Smith and Lane Holdings, to the Cojuangcos in exchange for dollar pit concessions in a Manila casino.

One Manila paper reprinted the articles published by the Sydney Morning Herald in October and November 1987. The Inquirer merely reported the

publication of the Herald articles together with the side of the Cojuangcos.

The Cojuangcos sued the three papers for damages amounting to P100 million each.

They also sued the Herald and its publishers, John Fairfax and Sons Ltd, in December 1987.

The other day, that case in Australia was decided in the Cojuangcos favour. Australian Capital Territories Justice Jeffrey Miles awarded the couple US\$170,000, including costs and interests, in an out of court settlement which was described by the Canberra Times as "one of the highest out-of-court settlements in Australia in recent years."

Part of the settlement was the

publication in the Herald on Dec 2, of its apology which will carry the retraction of any implications that the couple had been corruptly involved in frauds and bribery.

The Cojuangcos' spokesman said the outcome of the Australian case may have a bearing on the couple's libel suits against the three Manila papers.

The spokesman said Ms Cojuangco, in an overseas call, described the verdict in Australia as a triumph of truth and justice.

Queen's counsels Rick Burridge, Tom Hughes, barristers Stuart Littlemore, Bruce Conner, and solicitors Hugu Keller and Mary McMahon represented the Cojuangcos in Canberra.

Check-up necessary

FROM now on, before being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, a nominee must be able to prove that he or she is of sound mind and body.

The commission decided in plenary session to subject to scrutiny the mental and physical state of all presidential appointees seeking confirmation, through an evaluation of the nominee's physical and mental health by a certified physician.

The additional requirement were part of a series of amendments introduced by CA members to the appointment body's rules.

Sen. Sotero Y. Laurel, the appointments body's majority floor leader, said the amendments are effective immediately.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the confirmation of the appointment of Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago continues to hang fire.

Santiago's appointment was rejected by the commission before Congress went on recess last October on the ground that she lacked the necessary experience for an agrarian reform secretary. She was reappointed by President Aquino but she has to go through the appointments commission.

The former immigration chief offered to resign at the height of the commission's stormy review of her appointment.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and John Osmeña, who led the opposition to Santiago's appointment, said previous agrarian reform laws required the agrarian reform secretary to have at least five years experience in agrarian reform.

9 killed by logging firm's guards

COTABATO CITY: Nine persons were killed and nine others wounded when heavily armed men believed to be security guards of a logging company opened fire at a jeepney which had earlier given them a lift in a remote village in Maguindanao.

It was another bloody chapter in the bitter dispute between the Cotabato Timberland Company Inc. (CTCI) and local residents over the logging firm's operations in the area.

Ali Mamoribid, one of the wounded, said the armed men were members of the security force of CTCI.

In another incident, three members of the elite security force of the Moro National Liberation Front were killed in an encounter with army troops in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur.

The armed said a 14-man band of the National Security Command (Nascom) of the MNLF were in ambush position waiting for government troops on the boundary of Barangays Narra and Ipi when residents reported their presence to the military.

The troops then laid a trap and surprised the rebels, believed to be the same group which killed

three militiamen in the area 12 days ago.

Mamoribid said he and 18 companions were travelling from Parang town to Buldon aboard a Ford Fiera when at least 11 armed men strafed the vehicle with automatic rifle fire at 6:45 pm in Barangay Rominimbang in Barira town.

He said that earlier, the suspects were aboard a CTCI logging truck which stopped at Barangay Sagasab in Parang. Because a number of CTCI vehicles had been ambushed in the area, the armed men alighted and flagged down the jeepney, which was following them.

Fearing that the armed men would be ambushed by enemies of CTCI, they gave the suspects a ride, Mamoribid said.

"*Naawa kami sa kanila dahil halatang takot silang ambusin ng mga kaaway sa CTCI kaya pinasakay namin sila*," he said.

He said that after five kilometres, the armed men alighted. But all of a sudden, they opened fire.

Odin Abdula, member of the *Batasan Pamprook* in Central Mindanao, condemned the incident.

Alcuaz: Macaraig tried to bribe telecommunications

DISMISSED telecommunications chief Jose Luis Alcuaz accused executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig of attempting to bribe broadcasters in bid to stop media criticisms against the government.

Alcuaz told a press conference he would disclose the details of the alleged bribery attempt when he testifies before the senate blue ribbon committee.

"I might ask the committee for at least one executive (closed) session because the evidence I will present on Secretary Macaraig will shake this administration to its foundations," Alcuaz said.

He added he would also present evidence on the alleged interference of President Aquino's two sons-in-law — Eldon Cruz and Manolo Abellada — in the affairs of the National Telecommunications Commission. He said he also has

evidence that they tried to block his bid to break up Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company's monopoly of international gateway operations.

During the press conference, Alcuaz demanded that President Aquino revamp the Cabinet to rid it of "inefficient and incompetent" officials and avert "the precipitous decline of the credibility of the Aquino administration." He refused to identify the officials, however.

Alcuaz said the evidence he has on Macaraig also involved other Cabinet secretaries but was still undecided whether to name them, saying there would be a "vacuum of power of President Aquino's corollary" if these officials were replaced for their involvement in the alleged bribe attempt.



Danding's return remains a puzzle

WHAT was the flight route of former Ambassador Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr.?

This is the one question running in the public mind, not questions about his political plans, obvious as they already are.

Various sources at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said Cojuangco might have arrived in Manila aboard a private jet through a point in Mindanao from Singapore. From Mindanao, he took a regular domestic flight to Manila.

Might he have flown on his private jet directly to Manila? Not if he arrived in Manila on Friday, Nov 24, as has been widely reported. Airport sources have confirmed that on that day no private jets landed either at the Manila domestic airport or the NAIA.

Taking a private jet direct to Manila would have removed the element of surprise crucial to Cojuangco's hassle-free landing in Manila. Arrivals of private jets at the domestic airport and at the Naia are closely monitored.

The source said that "security is lax at the provincial airports." "Except for Cebu, the provincial airports have only one flight or two flights daily. After the flights are processed, airport security calls it a day," the source said.

If Cojuangco arrived here on an international flight, he must have used an assumed name and left through the service stairway from the tube, the way Ninoy Aquino went down to his martyrdom.

An airport source traced Cojuangco's flight from Los Angeles where he had been based since he fled with the Marcoses in February 1986. There, he boarded a regular commercial aircraft, say, Singapore Airlines, for Singapore.

From Singapore, he took a private jet for an airport in Mindanao with direct flights to Manila, such as Zamboanga, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

"It's not unusual in airports like Cagayan de Oro to see private jets. They come and go because of the multinational companies in the area," the source said.

Manila-bound passengers at minor provincial airports like Pagadian are ferried by Fokker-50 or by Sunair to Cebu to catch their flights on BAC-111, an Air-bus or a Boeing 737 for Manila.

To avoid unnecessary and premature exposure, Cojuangco had to take a direct, domestic flight to Manila after disembarking from a private jet from Singapore.

From Los Angeles, Inquirer correspondent Jorge Bernal reported that Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen and two children may have boarded a China Airlines flight for Taiwan.

"Extremely possible" is how the airport source described the Taiwan scenario.

"The advantage of China Airlines is that it's even more obscure than Singapore Airlines," he added.

From Taiwan, the Cojuangcos could have flown aboard a private jet to an airport in the North to board a regular domestic flight for Manila.

"We have airports in Baguio, Laoag, Isabela and Clark," said the source, "and these are points sympathetic to Cojuangco. But scrap Clark as a possibility as the Americans would not want to risk a diplomatic incident."

Other pieces in the puzzle of the Cojuangco arrival include the following:

Make way for Cesar Montano

THIS is the year when almost all the potential screen heroes have been tapped by major film outfits to do solo-starring. Rowell Santiago, Monsoor del Rosario, Daniel Fernando, Jestoni Alarcón, John Regala, and Eric Quizon.

But one among them who deserves the much-awaited break is brawny Cesar Montano who's been offered by films ceasar, Robbie Tan of Seiko Films to finally do a solo movie.

Cesar was seen in Seiko's office, one late evening surrounded by choice entertainment writers. Dashing in a casual polo shirt, he comes across as a screen heroic figure whose magnetic appeal would entice any moviegoer to watch him on screen: personally though, he is softspoken and quite private. More so, it is the air of mystique that draws the women closer to him.

Cesar's first stellar role will be the film titled "Ang Bukas ay Akin," which stars Cesar with Gretchen Barreto, Cherie Gil, Isabel Rivas, Jestoni Alarcón with Laurie Guillen at the helm. It will launch Cesar as a full-fledged actor and the film is being eyed by Robbie Tan as an entry for this month's Metro Manila Film Festival. Screen adaptation story was done by three noted writers, Ricky Lee, Raquel Villavicencio and Joel Chionglo. "I instantly fell in love with my role in 'Ang Bukas ay Akin,'"

am not the typical lead star who does a goody-goody role here. I play Remo who turned out to be a real monster after being hired by Cherie Gil to destroy what's going on between Gretchen and Jestoni. I am an opportunist, and a smart villain in this movie. Very challenging talaga ang role ko dito. Remo is cute, funny, yet tenacious," he said.

While most actors would rather play a lead role that's sort of heroic, Cesar does not mind essaying the opposite. "What is more important is that I am able to do the role effectively — to come out almost real in the character I do. After all, 'Ang Bukas ay Akin' challenges me to no end."

Cesar does not discount the fact that he is lucky indeed for being tapped by Robbie Tan's magnetic wand. "I have waited long for this. I know that it's better to be prepared to do a lead role than to do half-bake," Cesar said.

By preparation, Cesar meant going through almost all the acting workshops offered in local tinseltown. "Wala ya akong pinalampas na workshop. I believe that it enhances whatever talent I've got."

Cesar's real introduction to acting started on stage in the early 80s. It went on simultaneously with his TV and print commercial modelling assignments for Levi's Jeans, Porsche pants, Magnolia and even ramp

modelling for Barge Ramos and Cesar Solitero.

He worked with the likes of Joel Lamangan, Tony Mabesa and Chris Vertido on the legitimate stage. Stage plays like the "Famous New Yorker from Tondo" (which even had 11 runs in Singapore), "Estemong-goles," and "El Centidol Indio" occupy a special place in Cesar's heart.

In 1986, he did "Agoes," a 30-minute soap opera where he plays boyfriend to Gretchen Barreto and in 1987, he co-starred with Jaclyn Jose and Roy Alvarez in "Maynila," a TV anthology.

Despite the rigid training in acting, Cesar feels that he has a long way to go before achieving the level Christopher de Leon and Michael de Mesa both achieved in showbiz. "Marami pa akong bigas na kakainin. Learning to act does not stop at a certain point. I believe it is infinite. Each day is a learning process." The Hollywood figures he admires most include Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman, Kevin Costner and Mel Gibson.

A dream role for Cesar who is a Civil Engineering graduate is that of a retardate. "It is very hard to come out as a retardate because you have to be very convincing," he said.

Cesar, obviously has been in showbiz for more than five years now, but he's being patient paid off well. "I really wanted to take

up Law when I was in College but I gave in to my father's wish so I opted for Engineering. Even in school I already toyed with the idea of joining the movies someday. I'm serious about becoming an actor, but then I have to obey my parents and finish schooling.

"At least now I feel comfortable in the world I live in. Being in showbiz is for me—I know exactly what I'm doing. I like the

challenge it has to offer me," Cesar enthused.

Cesar signed a two-year contract with Robbie's Seiko Films years which required him to do five movies. It actually expired last November but Robbie believing that he has another prize catch in his stable of dramatic actors, renewed Cesar's contract. Good for another two years, Cesar is slated to do at least eight films within that span of time.



Handsome Cesar Montano gets the lucky break from Seiko films.

The Paranaque Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Padac)

By Mayor Wally N. Ferrer
Padac chairman

THE anti-drug campaign is again very much in the news these days, not only locally such as the revelations and denunciations made in the halls of the Senate but internationally, such as in Central and South America, where a protracted violent struggle is going on against big-time drug lords.

There is no need to re-emphasize to you the social evils of dangerous drugs to our youth, the very fibre and future of our nation. Your mere presence here today indicates you are well aware of this.

I am pleased to report to you the accomplishments of the Paranaque Anti-Drug Abuse Council or Padac. My report will not dwell so much on local successes or experiences but more on our efforts to be part of the larger, nationwide effort to combat this cancer, for truly, if municipalities such as ours do not join in the effort, fifty per cent or even more of the battle will already be lost.

Paranaque can be proud that the Padac can perhaps be set up as the model of local government's efforts to fight this ever-vigilant evil. Since March 1989 when Padac was re-organized it has accomplished much, but much more remains to be done.

First, let me thank the different government offices and centres which have been very helpful to the Padac in realizing its projects — among them, the Masigla Group Home for Street Children, Dare, the Narcom, Drug Rehabilitation Centre, the Dangerous Drugs Board and the Department of Local Governments.

From this listing, you can already surmise that the anti-drug effort cannot be localized and that for each municipality to try and act alone would be an exercise in futility. This could be the first lesson to local government executives, that hand-in-hand co-operation and co-ordin-



Ferrer

"Action of efforts is essential."

A good second lesson would be that, finances permitting, each municipality or city, taking into account its own peculiar conditions, should formulate and implement the concept of its own holding/diagnostic Center, undertake recruitment selection and appointment of competent staff, and fund continuing operations thereof including building construction. In Paranaque, Padac has already done this with much help from the municipality's concerned private sector. The Padac Centre was blessed last September and should be inaugurated and fully ready by December.

A holding centre is a must. Dare and other Rehabilitation Centres are already filled to the rafters and are groaning under the pressure, despite the good jobs they are doing. We simply do not have enough facilities in the country. Every municipality's contribution in this direction would be a significant step in the advancement of our cause.

Corollary to the holding centre, we have intensified our educational and informational campaign and brought it down to where it counts — the barangay level. We have trained two

youth groups in self-discovery. Very soon, we will be conducting training and awareness seminars for parents in co-operation with the DLG so they will be aware of the signs and repercussions of drug abuse among their children. Brochures, bulletins and pamphlets have been widely distributed.

We have 168 officials in our 16 barangays. The municipal government has informed them that it will not be sufficient to merely say that they will join the campaign. They too will have to learn the proper methods and strategies, and for this reason, we conducted an orientation seminar for them on drug abuse prevention and control and what roles they will have to play. This seminar was held in Baguio City last May.

To find out the extent of the problem in our municipality, we commissioned a survey and in this effort we have requested the Philippine Information Agency and the Dangerous Drugs Board to assist us.

The lack of livelihood and the drugs problem are partial cause and effect. This is why, together with the Paranaque Livelihood Council, we have undertaken livelihood projects using community resources and the involvement of parents and youth. Simple projects such as high speed sewing, automotive repair and providing capital for vending are already going a long way.

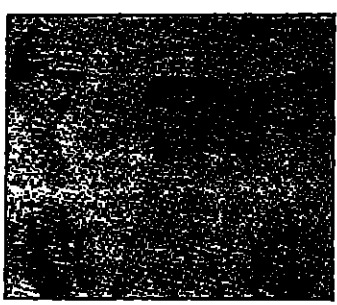
The drugs problem is like an octopus with many tentacles. Each of those tentacles has to be cut off if we are to kill the main body of the problem. More difficult is the major problem of

2 teenagers slain: Two teenagers were shot to death by three unidentified men recently in front of a vulcanizing shop in Navotas. Larry dela Torre, 17, and Edgar Parra, 19, both of 1195 M. Naval St. Barangay San Jose, were brought to the Tondo General Hospital but died from several gunshot wounds.

Navotas police chief Lt. Col. Alberto Nepomuceno said Dela Torre and Parra were in front of the Q.B. vulcanizing shop on M. Naval St. when three men came and fired at them.

A witness told police that he was near the teenagers when they were shot.

'Hot Dog' reunites zany trio



Tito, Vic and Joey

SEPARATED from one another for quite a spell (but only on the big screen because their "H66thine" show, "Eat, Bulaga!" continues to hog the top berth), the zany trio of Tito, Vic and Joey will have a grand reunion in Regal Films' "Hot Dog," directed by Jose "Pepo" Wenceslao, which also stars Maricel Laxa and the husband-wife tandem of Ramon Christopher and Lolot de Leon.

These past many months, Tito, Vic and Joey have been going their individual ways, reaping success and more achievements in the process.

While Tito Sotto is ably dividing his time and attention between his duties as vice-mayor of Quezon City (where he has been spearheading a relentless drive against drug addiction), his buddies Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon have been doing successful experiments on their own.

Vic's recent solo starrer, Regal's, "Gawa Na ang Bala Para sa Akin," earned millions (estimated to be more than P24-million in its entire Metro Manila run), putting him alongside Joey as the country's most bankable and hottest comedian. It was not Vic's first time to go solo. The first was last year when he did "Good Morning, Tisera" with Cony Reyes and Aiza Seguerra.

Joey is, of course, still at it, meaning doing (by starring in them and/or directing them, like his latest, Regal's "Romeo Loves Juliet," which he co-directs with Tony Reyes) one hit after another, proving once again that when it rains, it really pours. Joey's "Starzan" ranks until now as this year's (so far, that is) biggest earner, for which Joey and Regal were given trophies by the theater owners as Box-Office Star and Box-Office Company of the year.

Tito himself tried going solo, in "Aso't Pusa" with Aiza Seguerra, with considerable success.

The zany trio insists that they may each go their separate ways sometimes, but they can never be really apart.

Because even when Vic, Joey or Tito, does a solo starrer, the two others lend support by doing a "guest" stint.

"Hot Dog" is a movie to watch because it is the zany trio's first time to work together again after venturing out as individuals. It is also the first movie to be shown starring Ramoncito and Lolot after the latter gave birth to their first child.

Dennis Sy's 1st concert: Not bad

By Luna Inocian

NEVER mind that there was too much fog from the smoke machine. Never mind that the performer looked more like a doctor (complete with preppy spectacles) than an up-and-coming pop singer and that I wasn't too keen on his outfits. Never mind that his first few notes were obviously nervous and that he sometimes went flat. Never mind that most of the Music Museum guests that night were his friends, relatives and classmates.

All things considered, Dennis Sy's first concert was not bad at all.

Dennis has a good solid voice (nothing spectacular and a bit raw but good and strong nevertheless...), but good solid voices are about a dime a dozen in the Philippines so that in itself would not get anyone "sold" on Dennis. However, before Dennis decides to make for the arsenic and lace my Coke, I'll say that he did manage to leave a very good impression on me. Really! What impressed me most is that he held his own beside a more seasoned performer with a more powerful voice (Stella Igancio who delivered a jazz and blues number full-energy to the unanimous



Dennis Sy in action at the Music Museum.

approval of the audience). Just like his radio ad which capitalized on his not being too well-known ("Dennis who?"), he just walked up to Stella and I said, "Wow, I wish I had a voice like that!" Then he proceeded to sing with her, matching her energy and enthusiasm.

What do you know, he has the makings of a trouper after all. And he certainly could move —

all the right steps, done just right! I think Dennis has a lot going for him... just needs more work. I'd use "potential" but that would be cliché-ish. But just for the record, he does have potential.

The real surprise of the evening, however, was the director-scriptwriter Jaime del Mundo (yes, that actor from Repertory Philippines). "Light and Shade" was his very first concert and, for

someone who previously just lived and breathed theatre and opera, this was quite a feat! The show flowed smoothly and naturally (nothing jarring or out of place, except maybe for Jinky Llamanzares who just couldn't reach the energy levels of both Stella and Dennis that night, and that's hardly the director's fault).

The concept was simple (Dennis as is) there was gimmickry. A very refreshing thing actually what with concerts left, front and centre trying to out-gimmick one another. Once Jaime gets to know this medium better, there is no doubt he will give other concert directors a run for their money. He already has the technical knowhow, the diligence, the patience and the talent — experience should teach him the rest.

You realise of course that I am no experienced critic. I mean, talk about "Luna who?" I am just your average Pinoy who loves theatre and music and has seen enough concerts to fancy herself able to pass judgement on one. So you don't really have to take my word for this. However, you can be sure that I will be writing along the lines of "I told you so" when both Dennis and Jaime "come of age."

QUEZON CITY: A Quezon City regional trial court judge has issued a writ of preliminary attachment against the properties of a government official.

In his order dated Oct 26, 1989, Judge Lucas P. Bersamin asked deputy sheriff Jose G. Martinez to attach the properties of spouses Fernando and Imelda Camus. Fernando Camus is budget examiner for internal audit of the Office of the Press Secretary in Malacanang.

The case arose from the purchase by Seiko Films Inc. of a house and lot owned by the Camus couple at 40 Malingap St., Teacher's Village, QC for P2 million.

Seiko Films later found out that the property has a notice of its pending on its title, and that the Camus couple had previously sold the same property to spouses Mario and Gloria Secades.

LAOAG CITY: Mayor Ernesto Tamayo cheated death twice this month: He survived a grenade-throwing incident and a vehicular mishap that happened in a span of 10 days.

Last Friday, a borrowed Mercedes Benz car he was riding in rammed a bridge in Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur. He suffered a slight head injury.

His co-riders, who included Laoag Councilor Celestino Almazan, were also hurt. That car borrowed from Pasay Mayor Tony Evangelista was partially damaged.

Last All Saints Day an unidentified assassin threw a fragmentation grenade at the mayor near the Laoag cemetery.

Luckily, the grenade failed to explode, according to several policemen who witnessed the incident.

The mayor's friends and supporters attributed Tamayo's luck to his being a religious person.

MANILA: The Department of Social Welfare and Development, barangay officials, and parents of pupils at day-care centers in Tondo lauded the other day Manila Councilor Flaviano F. Concepcion for the launching of "Project Likmanan at Pisara ng Anak." The project aims to help poor children.

DSWD district chief Daisy Valiente and Mrs. Iluminada Babela praised Concepcion for donating his salaries and allowances as city councilor for the purchase of chairs and blackboards for use in 18 nursery schools in Tondo.

Valiente, Babela and the barangay captains in the area benefited by Concepcion's project expressed gratitude for the councilor's concern for the more than 1,000 pre-schoolers who were previously using worn-out and dilapidated facilities.

The initial donation of 400 chairs and 10 blackboards was valued at more than P30,000.

Project Likmanan, Concepcion said, is a part of a three-point educational programme initiated by his office for less privileged youths of Tondo.

The two other programmes are the "Councilor Concepcion Educational Programme" and "Project Linaw-Sagip Paningin."

ANGELES CITY: Leaders of a big contractors group warned yesterday that the continued harassment of construction by some officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has adversely affected the implementation of the government's infrastructure programme.

They appealed to President Aquino to look deeply into the problems plaguing the implementation of the programme.

Officers of the National Confederation of Constructors Associations of the Philippines (Naccap) said they have been receiving complaints from the association's members about the alleged harassment and abuses by some DPWH officials.

Naccap officers cited as an example the action by an official of the DPWH who allegedly "imposed sanctions without authority" on several contractors for alleged collusion in the biddings of the projects.

Wilfredo E. Castor, Naccap president, said that the contractors, several of them with projects awarded by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems (MWSS), complained that they have been given the run-around by DPWH officials when they asked for time suspension and/or extension of their contracts.

Castor said the reason by

the officials for denying their requests was the negative impact in their projects.

He explained that contracts are governed by the implementing rules and regulations embodied in Presidential Decree 1594, as amended, and by provisions of Article 1169 of the Civil Code of the Philippines which states:

"In reciprocal obligations, neither party incurs delay if the other does not comply or is not ready to comply in a proper manner with what is incumbent upon him. From the moment one of the parties fulfills his obligation, delay by the other begins."

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City: A change in the attitude of the people towards the communist rebels, the cooperation of civilian authorities, and the dissemination now rocking the New People's Army (NPA) are among the factors that have weakened the insurgency movement.

Brig. Gen. Alejandro A. Galido, Solcom commander, cited these factors as he reported that the campaign against insurgency in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions scored recently a string of victories.

From September to January this year, General Galido reported the following: Killing of 282 NPA regulars, capture of 130 others, surrender of 431, arrest of 70, and seizure of 248 high powered firearms.

He noted that while in the past many residents and local officials, particularly those in far-flung areas, were cooperative with the NPA, now they have a different attitude.

He considered as a big blow to the rebel movement the recent salvaging of "deep penetration agent" suspects in the NPA ranks.

This has caused several rebels to come out of their mountain hideouts and surrender to the military, Col. Juan Mamarno, Solcom spokesman, said.

"We are definitely winning the war and I hope, we can keep this up until we completely dismantle the underground movement," the Solcom head added.

LAOAG CITY: A confiscated subversive document revealed the alleged breakaway of a top dissident leader of the Northern Luzon Communist Front, a military official here said.

Col. George Moleta, army chief of 503 Infantry Brigade based in Laoag, declassified the document in a broadcast interview shortly after an encounter between his men and New People's Army (NPA) rebels in barangay San Isidro, Bangui, Ilocos Norte last Friday.

The document was found near the bodies of the four NPA fatalities. Also found at the scene were four M-16 Armalite rifles and a handset radio.

Moleta said the communist leader whose name was not identified in the document "went AWOL (absent without leave) from the underground movement together with his revolutionary wife."

MANILA: Customs Collector Zafiro Respiro sought the immediate removal of 200 customs officials and employees, including policemen and intelligence agents, from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) for inefficiency.

"I feel that some of them are not of service to us here anymore and they have outlived their usefulness," Respiro said.

He said the relief is designed to "give the affected personnel a chance to prove their worth in other assignments where they can be of better service."

The affected personnel whose names were indicated in a "transfer list" was submitted to Customs Commissioner Salvador M. Mison for disposition.

He said those affected in the latest shake-up are division and unit heads and their assistants, appraisers, examiners, and employees to be transferred to the Bureau of Customs central offices in Port Area for new assignments.

MANILA: The Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) owes the Muntinlup P36.4 million in back taxes, the Bureau of Local Government Finance said.

Lorinda M. Carlos, bureau executive director, said the back taxes represented machinery and other equipment which have remained undeclared since 1975.

Carlos said the Meralco

properties, not used in a new and preferred industry, are deemed taxable. The municipal government had earlier requested the help of the bureau in enforcing the collection of back taxes from Meralco. Acting Municipal Treasurer Eduardo A. Alon said assessment of the taxes was made following the sale of the properties to the National Power Corp. in December, 1978. The bureau ruled that Meralco must pay back taxes from 1976 to 1978, the year the ownership of the properties was transferred to Napocor.

MARAWI CITY: A town mayor of Lanao del Sur, two of his policemen, and his driver were kidnapped by heavily armed men believed to be the National Security Command (NSCOM) forces of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

He was kidnapped on the outskirts of barangay Lumabak Angod, Acacia, Lanao del Sur.

Lt. Col Omar Manabilang, Lanao del Sur PC-INP commander, and 37 mayors of Lanao del Sur, led by Gov. Saidamen Pangarungan, told Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC-INP chief, during a meeting at the provincial capital that kidnapped was Jamil Amatondeng, mayor of Sultan Gumander. The names of his two policemen and his driver were not known.

Manabilang said Amatondeng was kidnapped by the MNLF at 3:30 pm in a civilian jeep on his way to Sultan Gumander from Marawi City.

Witnesses said the kidnapers were armed with AK-47, M-14, M-16, and M-203 rifles and grenade launchers.

Manabilang said the abduction of Amatondeng might be in connection with Sunday's plebiscite.

He said Amatondeng was preparing for the arrival of the 5th Infantry battalion to maintain peace and order in the area.

Manabilang told Montano that he already sent two companies of combat soldiers to hunt the kidnapers and rescue the mayor, his policemen, and driver.

Latest report said the MNLF kidnapers and the mayor were in Dopag, Calanog, Lanao del Sur.

MANILA: A hitchhiker died while a driver was hurt when a 10-wheel truck with an empty van overshoot the edge of a passageway at Pier 18, North Harbour, Tondo, Manila and fell into Manila Bay.

Capt. Gene Javier, homicide chief of the Western Police District (WPD), identified the fatality as Mauricio Amistad, 32, of 2077 Dimasalang St. Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Amistad was in the truck when it was pulled up by a crane of the Philippine Coast Guard at noon. Amistad was trapped in the driver's coach when the truck fell into the bay, while Felix Escuyos, 26, the truck driver, survived. He suffered bruises in the face and arms and was taken to the Mary Johnston Hospital where he was confined.

Reports said Escuyos' truck with plate no. KAK-932 had just finished unloading cargo at Pier 10 for shipment to the Visayas and Mindanao when the driver boarded it again to go home in Sta. Cruz.

Since the road was narrow, Escuyos drove forward and made a U-turn near the edge of the passageway on his way to the pier gate. Amistad hit the edge of the pier gate.

As Escuyos was maneuvering the vehicle, the truck's right tyres overshoot the edge and fell into the bay.

PASAY CITY: The Supreme Court (SC) transferred from Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge Sergio Amonoy to RTC Judge Fermin Martin Jr. the jurisdiction over the illegal possession of firearms charges filed against Nueva Ecija Rep. Nicanor de Guzman Jr.

Also removed from Amonoy's jurisdiction were the drug pushing case filed against Jerome Macalintal and an illegal possession of firearms case filed against Australian Dominique Adams.

The action of the High Court stemmed from a petition filed by Pasay City Prosecutor Francisco Villa who accused Amonoy of gross ignorance of the law, grave misconduct, and gross incompetence. The transfer, Villa said, will pave the way for the continuous trials of the charges against De Guzman.

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SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1989

Carthon again in limelight

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, Dec 16, (AP): When the New York Giants won the Super Bowl in 1986, a common sight on offense was fullback Maurice Carthon leading Joe Morris into the end zone.

Carthon rarely got the glory and he didn't seem to mind his role as a lead blocker. But in recent years his playing time has decreased and this season he seemed to be an invisible man in the eyes of Giants coach Bill Parcells until last Sunday.

With snow falling in Denver and the Giants in need of establishing a running game, Carthon was given the call and responded with 11 carries for 43 yards and five receptions for 34 yards in a 14-7 victory over the Broncos. The 43 yards matched his career high and more than likely earned Carthon added playing time with the playoffs two weeks away.

The Giants (10-4) can clinch their first playoff berth since 1986 by beating the Dallas Cowboys (1-13) at Giants Stadium. "All of my teammates kept saying: 'Why aren't they using you more?'" Carthon said. "That means a lot to me, having the respect of my teammates."

One of the big reasons for Carthon's return against Denver had to do with the play of Dave Meggett. The rookie has either been spectacular by turning short passes into touchdowns scoring plays or generous by fumbling, including three fumbles in the previous four games.

"We had him doing too much," Parcells said. "He was running, catching and doing all the returns. That was a lot to ask."

With some of the pressure relieved, Meggett responded with a weaving 57-yard touchdown reception against the Broncos.

So now on, Meggett probably will not be used as often as in the past and Carthon will get more playing time, a situation Parcells thinks will be more beneficial to both players and the team.

"The coaches sometimes forget about players in certain situations," Carthon said. "I guess the players they tend to forget about."

New York probably will start the same offensive line as last week, meaning Jumbo Elliott again will rest his sprained ankle. That will put Eric Moore at left tackle and rookie Brian Williams at right guard.

The Giants had few problems with the Cowboys early this year at Dallas, winning 30-13 despite turning the ball over five times.

However, since then, Parcells has noticed an improvement in the Cowboys. He says they have played well and had chances to beat both Miami and Los Angeles, two teams still in the playoff hunt.

Aussies take three Sri Lankan wickets Ratnayake routs Australians

HOBART, Australia, Dec 16, (Reuters): Australia snatched three quick Sri Lankan wickets to repair some of the damage inflicted by Ramesh Ratnayake, whose six for 66 wrecked the home side's first innings on the opening day of the second Test today.

Sri Lanka were 27 for three in reply to Australia's 224 at the close of a sensational day's play, the first occasion Test cricket has been played in Tasmania.

Pace bowler Ratnayake, who missed the drawn first Test through injury, validated captain Arjuna Ranatunga's brave decision to put Australia into bat by removing four of the much-vaunted Australian top order before lunch.

Gaining movement and lift off an occasionally spiteful pitch, Ratnayake removed David Boon, Mark Taylor, Tom Moody and Dean Jones as Australia crumbled to 123 for six shortly after lunch.

Peter Sleep, with an unbeaten 47, anchored a revival by the lower order before Ratnayake returned to take Australia's last two wickets in two balls for Test best figures of six for 66 off 19.4 overs.

Sri Lanka's joy at a fine all-round bowling and fielding performance was quickly tempered when they batted.

Australian medium-pacer Terry Alderman found the pitch



Ramesh Ratnayake: takes six for 66

a dream and quickly reduced Sri Lanka to 15 for two, Moody and Taylor taking catches behind the wicket to remove Dhammika Ranatunga (two) and Asanka Gurusinghe (nought).

Local boy Greg Campbell won the greatest roar of the day from a packed Bellerive Oval when he

had nightwatchman Asoka de Silva caught by captain Allan Border in the slips for two shortly before stumps to guarantee a full house tomorrow.

Ranatunga's decision to bowl first for the second successive test appeared a mistake when Boon and Taylor reached 50 without

loss. But Taylor's dismissal, caught behind for 23, triggered a collapse as Ranatunga crowded the batsmen with fielders.

Moody, on six, fended a Ratnayake bouncer to short leg. Boon was out for 41 edging him to second slip and Jones was unable to stop himself edging a beautiful ball from the headbanded strike bowler to wicket-keeper Hashan Tillekeratne on three.

Steve Waugh tried to hit his team out of trouble but Ranatunga's tight field placings cut off the right-hander's favourite shots on the offside.

A frustrated Waugh eventually gloved a lifting delivery from Graeme Labrooy to Tillekeratne, Waugh scored 16.

Border's dismissal, caught low down in the slips by Asoka de Silva for 24 off Ravi Ratnayake, reduced Australia to the depths of 123 for six.

But Sri Lanka appeared to ease the pressure with the removal of the last top line Australian batsman, allowing Sleep and Ian Healy to rebuild.

Sleep, brought into the side as a leg-spinner, looked the least troubled of all the batsmen in his 176-minute innings and he received occasionally lusty support from Healy with 17 and Merv Hughes, 27.

Healy's dismissal gave Tillekeratne, who missed the first Test, his fourth catch of the day, a

superb leaping effort high over his head off Gurusinghe.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings	
D. Boon c Mahanama b Ratnayake	41
M. Taylor c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake	23
T. Moody c Gurusinghe b Ratnayake	6
A. Border c Asoka de Silva b Ratnayake	24
D. Jones c Tillekeratne b Ratnayake	3
S. Waugh c Tillekeratne b Labrooy	16
P. Sleep not out	47
I. Healy c Tillekeratne b Gurusinghe	17
M. Hughes b Asoka de Silva	27
S. Campbell c Mahanama b Ratnayake	6
T. Alderman b Ratnayake	0
Extras (lb-7 w-1 nb-6)	14
Total	224
Fall of wickets: 1-50 2-88 3-83 4-89 5-112 6-123 7-166 8-207 9-224	
Bowling: Ratnayake 15-2-39-1 (2nb), Labrooy 19-3-61-1, Ratnayake 19-4-26-6 (4nb), Ramanayake 4-0-21-0, Gurusinghe 6-0-20-1 (1W), Asoka de Silva 9-6-10-1	
SRI LANKA first innings	
R. Mahanama out	18
D. Ranatunga c Moody b Alderman	2
A. Gurusinghe c Taylor b Alderman	0
Asoka de Silva c Border b Campbell	2
Aravinda de Silva not out	5
Extras	0
Total (for three wickets)	27
Fall of wickets: 1-11 2-15 3-16	
To bat — Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Ravi Ratnayake, Hashan Tillekeratne, Ramesh Ratnayake, Graeme Labrooy, Champaka Ramanayake.	
Bowling: Alderman 5-0-19-2, Campbell 4-0-8-1.	



Arailiya Rest (from left, stand): Khalid, Nora, Eva, Malou, Marlyne, and Willy. Sitting: Flor, Jimmy and Saleh.

BMW and Chiquita outclass opponents

By Sonny Mariano

KEIFAN-BMW and Shuwaikh-Chiquita breezed past their respective rivals on Thursday and Friday to register double victories in the L&M-PBAK Winter League 89, at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

For its first win, the BMW Speedmasters now playing with an intact lineup proved much too fast for Kuwait City-Arailiya Rest and posted a 4-0 win. Speeding Mansour Al Shanti led his team with 575 while Saleh (553) and Nashed (542) are the other top scorers for BMW. The rest of the team is based on Cora Paras, Munib Hamdan, Waleed Al Zinki, Sadiq Al Awadi, and Mohammed Seraj (team captain).

Arailiya were led by Willy Sabay with 625 and Mohammed Amer with 573. The other ingredients of Arailiya are Jimmy Tadama (team captain), Nora Jordan, Saleh Karam, Marlyne Mariano, Eva Sabay, Ulrich Reinkenhoef, Malou Tadama and Flor Tongson.

For Keifan's second win, the Speedmasters blanked Yarmouk-Tectron high tech specialists. Aguin Mansour was in the driver's seat leading his team with 595 while Sani Baker (440) and Bojo Hamdan (457) were the top scorers for Tectron. With these two victories, Keifan moved several notches up in the standings and bolstered their chances for a finals berth.

Defending champions Shuwaikh-Chiquita who also won twice last weekend stamped their class over Salwa-Al Rashid on Thursday for their first victory winning 3 games to 1. Leading the Banana Magnums were Jesus Ventus with 553 and Arthur Reyes who submitted a 552. The other members of League leaders Chiquita are Rico Pino (team captain) Banana King Lando Cabranza, Nafiz Al Akhras, Cede Contreras, Lynne Reyes, Tony Lazon, Mory Labrooy, PVC, Pete Velasco Jr, and Arthur Reyes. The team manager is Rodha Mansouri while Gil B. Herico is the assistant team manager.

Al Rashid's gallant stand was led by Wally Flores with 521 while George Gaerlan contributed 486. Shuwaikh's second triumph came at the expense of erstwhile co-leader Al Soor-Najd Cargo. The match between these two teams was eagerly awaited because the winner will be taking the top position in the standings. The Banana Magnums showed no intention in relinquishing the overall leadership by outplaying the Cargo Forwarders 3 games to one. Najd led Chiquita with 632 with help coming from Arthur Reyes who scored 509. The losing side got a consolation of some sort when Naser Seraj who top scored for his team registered the high game of 245 and high series of 645 pinfalls.

Results of the other games played on Friday are as follows: Salmyia-NYC continued to recover lost ground by beating the undermanned Mahboula-Jokers 4-0. Constant Anouk Sah Tang paced the Traders with 590 and Baby Pasion added 525 to the team winning effort. The Jokers who only last week won two games suffered from lack of manpower and their chance of entering the finals looks dim after the setback. Jerry Fox (558) and Dan Proctor (514) were the top Jokers.

Kuwait City-Arailiya Rest made up for their dismal performance the other day and went on to defeat the Fala-NYC B Junior Traders 4-0. First on Arailiya's menu was Amer with 603 and Marlyne Mariano (513). Celso Estrada provided the best performance for the Junior Traders with his 562 output.

Another strong contender Surra-Magnolia Far East remained in contention when they brushed aside the challenge coming from Mirgah-City Intl/Far East Bank.

And finally Jalraya Club kept their hopes alive with a convincing 4 to nothing win over the Salwa-Al Rashid Freight Movers.

PBAK Winter League 1989 Team Standings

Team	G.P.	TPP	W	L	Ave.
Shuwaikh-Chiquita	21	18068	23	5	860
Al Soor-Najd Cargo	18	15144	17	7	841
Salmyia-NYC	21	17459	18	10	831
Surra-Magnolia/Far East Rest.	15	12506	12	8	833
Keifan-BMW	18	14883	13.5	10.5	827
Jabariyah Club	21	17271	15.5	12.5	822
Kuwait City-Arailiya Rest.	21	17327	15	13	825
Mahboula-Jokers II	18	14516	10.5	13.5	806
Salwa-Al Rashid	18	16399	9.5	16.5	781
Yarmouk-Tectron	18	14013	9	15	778
Mirgah-City Intl/Far East Bank	21	16054	6	22	764
Fala NTCB	15	11224	3	17	748

Worthy takes Lakers past Celtics

BOSTON, Dec 16, (AP): James Worthy led a long-range shooting attack with 28 points last night as the Los Angeles Lakers broke open a close game with a 12-0 run at the start of the fourth period in a 119-110 victory over the Boston Celtics.

A C Green had 25 points, Byron Scott 21, and Magic Johnson 16 points and 21 assists for the Lakers, who outscored Boston 28-10 at the free-throw line.

Leading 85-82 at the three-quarter mark, Los Angeles nailed down the victory at the outset of the fourth period, scoring a dozen points in the first two

minutes. Boston was led by Dennis Johnson with 24 points. Robert Parish had 23 and Larry Bird and Kevin McHale 21 each.

Knick 113, Hawks 108 Gerald Wilkins scored 29 points, including the go-ahead basket late in the game, leading New York over Atlanta.

Wilkins put the Knicks ahead to stay at 103-101 with 4:24 left, added a field goal for a four-point lead and hit a free throw at 2:06 for a five-point advantage.

The loss was Atlanta's second straight after a seven-game winning streak and broke an eight-

game home winning string.

Charles Oakley had 23 points and 15 rebounds and Patrick Ewing also scored 23 points for New York. Kevin Willis had a season-high 25 points for Atlanta, and Dominique Wilkins also scored 25.

Mavericks 95, 76ers 88 Rolando Blackman scored a season-high 28 points and Dallas scored the last 10 points of the game to defeat Philadelphia.

Mike Gminski had 26 points and 15 rebounds and Hersey Hawkins 15 points for the 76ers. Cavaliers 120, Superonics 101 John Williams scored five of

his career-high 32 points during an 11-0 fourth-quarter run that broke open a close game as Cleveland beat Seattle for its fourth straight win.

Williams scored 21 points in the first half, helping the Cavaliers to 55-54 lead.

Results		
New York	113	Atlanta 109
Cleveland	120	Seattle 101
Milwaukee	103	Indiana 98
Dallas	95	Philadelphia 88
L.A. Lakers	119	Boston 110
Miami	95	Minnesota 84
Denver	121	Sacramento 112
Phoenix	121	Houston 96
Utah	94	Detroit 91
Golden State	116	Portland 111

Dope control needed: Yugoslavs

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, Dec 16, (Reuters): Yugoslav athletes could wreck their country's international sporting image unless the government finds more cash for doping tests to weed them out at home, a top Yugoslav athletics official said yesterday.

"If the money is not found, there will be more and more Yugoslav athletes caught (abroad) in using dope and that can hurt our international image considerably," said Vlado Marjanovic, general secretary of the Yugoslav Athletics Federation.

He added: "Due to lack of money there were almost no controls at all in Yugoslavia last year."

"But we intend to change this next year because we suspect there is more dope around than most people think."

Marjanovic said there were only two laboratories qualified to carry out dope-controls in Yugoslavia, but both were defunct due to lack of funds.

"We face the decision of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) which states all the events should be covered with the control and, honestly, I have no clear idea how we can do it without heavy subsidizing," Marjanovic said.

He said only state-run institutions could find enough funds.

"We have to do something because we are organizing the European Championships next year. Too much is at stake to allow us to improvise, as we usually do," Marjanovic said.

Boxer suspended

LAS VEGAS, Dec 16, (AP): Olympic boxing gold medalist Kennedy McKinney had his Nevada boxing license suspended for six months yesterday for testing positive to cocaine in his last fight.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission made the suspension retroactive to McKinney's Oct 31 split decision win over Jose Luis Martinez.

McKinney, currently in a 90-day drug rehabilitation programme in Memphis, Tennessee, tested positive for cocaine following the fight.

The commission, in imposing the suspension, also stipulated that McKinney be subject to random testing in Nevada for a year.

KPBL opening re-scheduled for Dec 29

THE KPBL (Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League) has re-scheduled its opening date to Friday, Dec 29 at the Kaifan High School Gym.

The KPBL secretariat said that the inavailability of the venue was the main reason for the delay. The KPBL secretary general, Guillermo H. Lim-dimas apologized to all participants, and all basketball enthusiasts for any inconvenience caused by this delay.

The final cast of participating teams is as follows: Al Ghanim Freight & Travel, Al Mubarakhia Garage, Echo Electronics Est. Kay & Associates, KDD-Kuwait Danish Dairy, KHC-Bayan/Muwait Hotels Co., K.P.B.C. Kuwait Pre-fab Bldg. Co., KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace, LOT/EEI Al-Sarraf, Nissan Al-Babtain, Overland Transport Co., and Trico International.

These 12 teams shall play on the opening day in a one-day championship, the results of which have no direct bearing on the tournament proper.

This event was organized to give all teams chance to play on the opening day and let the participants see the changes and things to come in this basketball league and be ready for the tournament proper which starts on January 3, 1990.

All the participating teams have also been asked to send their respective Board of governors Representatives to a central meeting, on Tuesday, December 19, at 7:30 pm, at the Mabuhay Restaurant.

Agenda for this meeting shall include: opening ceremonies, the one-day championship, the tour-



KHC-Bayan squad



Kuwait Danish Dairy



KPBL basketball team



Overland Transport Co.



Trico International

The sign of good taste



Made in England

Government warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

Marsh slams record



Geoff Marsh

SYDNEY, Dec 16, (Reuters): Australian Test opener Geoff Marsh, who broke a big toe in net practice two weeks ago, scored a record unbeaten triple century for Western Australia in the Sheffield Shield cricket match against South Australia today.

Playing in his first game since he sustained the injury ahead of the New Zealand Test last month, Marsh dominated the crease for more than five sessions to amass 355 before captain Graeme Wood declared the first innings closed at 565 for three late on the second afternoon.

South Australia, showing signs of strain after almost two days in the field, were 50 for two in reply at the close.

Marsh's total was the highest Sheffield Shield score by a West Australian and the highest score in the competition since South Australia's Barry Richards made 356 against Western Australia 19 years ago.

The 628-minute innings included 53 fours and two sixes. He was dropped twice, on 244 by South Australian captain David Hughes and again on 330 by Glenn Bishop.

Marsh, fully fit but not picked to play in the current Test against Sri Lanka, and Mike Veletta, who contributed 150, also posted the highest opening Shield partnership when they carried Western Australia to 431 before the loss of Veletta's wicket.

Their total comfortably passed the 388 scored by Queensland pair Kepler Wessels and Robbie Kerr in the 1982-83 season.

A gambler by New South Wales skipper Geoff Lawson to use Mark O'Neill in the early stages of Victoria's first innings in the match at Albury paid off when the part-time spinner took three important Victorian wickets for 42 in 21 overs.

Victoria were left in a precarious position at stumps on 174 for five on the second day in reply to the New South Wales first innings total of 307.

All-rounder Greg Matthews had earlier helped New South Wales post their 300 target with a solid 56 in 210 minutes off 175 deliveries.

LONDON, Dec 16, (Reuters): Arsenal and Liverpool continued to set the pace in the English First Division with high-scoring wins today.

The champions beat Luton 3-2 to extend their unbeaten home run this season to 10 matches and top the League with 36 points, two more than second-placed Liverpool.

Liverpool crushed Chelsea 5-2 after going two goals up in the opening five minutes through Peter Beardsley — overlooked by England for last Wednesday's World Cup warmup against Yugoslavia — and Ian Rush.

Rush rounded off Liverpool's scoring in the 75th minute with his 11th goal of the season and the 14th Chelsea have conceded in their last three matches.

Aston Villa, who had won eight and drawn one of their previous 10 matches and were joint second with Liverpool, fell to a surprise 2-0 defeat at Millwall who had not won in their last 10 games.

Villa were joined on 31 points by Norwich, who are also still unbeaten at home after a 1-0 win over Derby.

England striker Gary Lineker struck his 11th goal of the season in the 69th minute to give Tottenham a 1-0 away victory over

troubled Manchester United. Spurs' victory, their second at Old Trafford this season following their 3-0 League Cup triumph there in October, moved them up to fifth place on 28 points.

Paul Gascoigne, looking to break into the England World Cup team, laid on the crossfield pass from which Lineker scored.

Greater goalmouth action than the score suggests saw both sides denied by the woodwork twice and Spurs reserve goalkeeper Bobby Mimms stood in well for the injured Erik Thorstved in his first match for nearly a year.

United manager Alex Ferguson left the pitch to chants of "Fergie out" from the terraces after seeing his team lose their third match in a row.

Manchester United's fortunes have also sunk off the field this season with boardroom squabbles. But former star Bobby Charlton ruled out he would become the new chairman as rumours circulated that he might help bale out the club.

Arsenal were always in command at Highbury but twice Dane Larsson reduced the deficit for Luton.

The champions went ahead

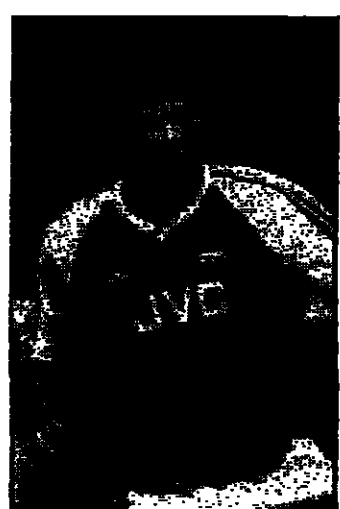


Lineker (left) and Smith: found their mark for Spurs and Arsenal respectively

after 20 minutes when Alan Smith scored from a Lee Dixon free kick. Elstrup equalised on the half hour.

Substitute Paul Merson, who came on for a hobbling Smith, restored Arsenal's lead within three minutes, heading home David Rocastle's cross.

Brian Marwood put the champions further ahead six minutes after the break but within two



time score 3-1 after Scott Gordon Durie, back after a three-month absence through injury, had pulled a goal back from Chelsea.

Dave Beasant, who won his second England cap on Wednesday as a substitute, saved a Jan Molby penalty after the break and had little chance with the goals.

Steve McMahon lobbed a fourth Liverpool goal before Rush ended the rout.

Results

English Division One			
Arsenal	3	Luton	2
Charlton	1	Crystal P	2
Chelsea	2	Liverpool	5
Coventry	2	Wimbledon	1
Manchester U	0	Tottenham	1
Millwall	2	Aston Villa	0
Norwich	1	Derby	0
Sheff Wed	2	QPR	0
Playing Sunday: Everton v Manchester			
City, Nottingham Forest v Southampton.			

English Division Two			
Bournemouth	2	Barnsley	1
Leeds	3	Brighton	0
Middlesbrough	4	Liverpool	2
Oxford	2	Wolves	2
Portsmouth	3	Sunderland	3
Port Vale	1	Sheff U	1
Watford	7	Bradford	2
West Ham	0	Oldham	2
Postponed: Blackburn v Stoke, Hull v Ipswich and Newcastle v Plymouth.			
Playing Sunday: West Bromwich v			

Swindon.	English Division Three		
Birmingham	3	Preston	1
Blackpool	0	Fulham	1

Bristol City	2	Leyton Orient	1
Bury	0	Walsall	2
Cardiff	1	Notts County	3
Rotherham	0	Huddersfield	0
Sheff Wed	3	Bolton	3
Wigan	2	Swansea	0

Salford	3	Bolton	3
Wigan	2	Swansea	0
Played Friday			
Crewe	1	Bristol R	0
Tranmere	0	Chester	0
Playing Sunday: Brentford v Man-			

Field, Northampton v Reading.			
English Division Four			
Chesterfield	0	York	0
Colchester	0	Torquay	3
Exeter	3	Gillingham	1
Hereford	1	Scunthorpe	2

Postponed		
Grimsby v Southend		
Barnsley v Aldershot and Wrexham v Burnley		

nley.			
Played Friday:			
Halifax	0	Doncaster	2
Playing Sunday: Cambridge v Peter-			

borough, Carlisle v Stockport.			
Scottish Premier Division			
Celtic	4	Dundee	1
Dundee U	1	Rangers	1
Postponed: Hearts v Aberdeen, Motherwell v Hibernian and St Mirren v Dunfermline.			

Scottish Division One			
Ayr	1	Raith	0
St Johnstone	2	Clyde	0
Postponed: Albion v Hamilton, Alloa v			

SPORTS BRIEFS

Tennis players

TRUMBULL, Conn., Dec 16, (Reuters): American Michael Chang and Arantxa Sanchez of Spain, a pair of 17-year-olds who burst into prominence at the 1989 French Open, were named yesterday, the most improved tennis professionals by Tennis magazine.

E. German player

BONN, Dec 16, (Reuters): International winger Andreas Thom, the first East German soccer player to be transferred to a West German club, will join Bayer Leverkusen on January 1.

\$4.5m deal

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 16, (AP): Boris Becker has signed a four-year deal with a little-known US racket company reportedly worth close to \$4.5 million.

Racing horses

DUBLIN, Dec 16, (Reuters): Classic Thoroughbred, the racing syndicate set up by Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien, is to send the disappointing Saratoga and four other horses to race on grass in California.

Diplomatic row

PARIS, Dec 16, (Reuters): Libyan authorities yesterday cleared this month's Paris-Dakar rally to pass through the country after fears the race could be diverted because of a diplomatic row, race organiser Gilbert Sabine said.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Dec 16, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday.

D. R. Wings	8	C. B. Hawks	4
N. J. Devils	7	A. Kings	5
N. Y. Islanders	5	Washington C	3
Vancouver C	3	Winnipeg Jets	3

W. German soccer

BONN, Dec 16, (Reuters): Results of the West German First Division soccer today:

Bayer M	4	Karlsruhe	0
VFB Stuttgart	3	Hamburg	1
Kaiserslautern	1	Cologne	2
St Pauli	2	Borussia M	1
Werder B	4	Nuremberg	0
Bayern	2	Waldhof M	2

Played on Friday:

Fortuna D	1	Borussia D	1
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(The match between Bayer Leverkusen and Homburg was postponed until next February because of the poor condition of the pitch.)

Bond's yacht scores 2nd double win

SYDNEY, Dec 16, (Reuters): Australian millionaire Alan Bond sailed his super maxi Drumbeat to its second successive line honours and handicap victory in the Southern Cross Cup today.

Drumbeat, sailing for Western Australia, broke the six-year-old record for the overnight 90 nautical mile race, crossing the Sydney harbour finishing line in nine hours 16 minutes.

New South Wales yacht Cyclone was second on handicap and Hong Kong's Foo 2 third after Foo 2 and Britain's Finishing Can Wait crossed the finishing line together with Cyclone just 42 seconds behind them.

The 25-metre Drumbeat, launched in April, was at times sailing faster than the true wind speed, which did not exceed 15 knots during the race, thanks to its massive sail area.

Bond, who called the race "champagne sailing," will return to Perth tomorrow for business meetings aimed at rescuing his debt-burdened Bond Corporation. The third race in the six-race series will be over 25 nautical miles tomorrow.

Bond will sail in the Sydney-Hobart race starting on December 26. Drumbeat must now be considered favourite to gain line and handicap honours.

Chinese claim Asian cycling team crown

NEW DELHI, Dec 16, (Reuters): The Chinese won five of the six medals at stake today and claimed the team title in the Asian Cycling Championships.

China's supremacy in road races enabled them to edge past South Korea. Each country won six gold and four silver medals during the championships but China had three bronze medals against the Koreans' two.

China's Tang Xuezhong emerged triumphant in the men's 166.5 km massed start road race, clocking three hours 34 minutes and 30 seconds.

Compatriot Guo Longchen won the silver medal with a time of 3:37:36 and South Korean Eun Chol Do finished third in 3:37:54 to earn his country's only medal on the final day.

The Chinese swept all medals in the women's 66.5 km massed start road race. Yan Yinhua snatched the gold from teammate Zhang Shuzhen although both finished with a time of 1:32:18. Lu Suyan took the bronze in 1:37:05.

W. Germans take 2-1 Davis Cup lead

STUTTGART, Dec 16, (Reuters): Boris Becker staged a virtual one-man show to mastermind the defeat of Swedish pair Anders Jarryd and Jan Gunnarsson today and give defending champions West Germany a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup final.

Though the Swedes rallied to achieve a rare break of Becker's serve and win the third and fourth sets, errors when they led early on proved too costly and they lost 7-6 6-4 3-6 6-7 6-4.

Sweden, Davis Cup champions four times in seven previous final appearances, have never come back from losing the doubles to take the trophy and the in-form Becker looks certain to sew up victory when he opens the reverse singles against Mats Wilander tomorrow.

Becker had to carry partner Eric Jelen for much of today's match as the older but less experienced West German played an error-ridden game which often had the 10,500 noisy fans in Stuttgart's Schleyer Hall gasping in horror.

The Swedish pair, with Gunnarsson picked instead of former Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg who is concentrating on

the singles here, went ahead in both the first and second sets but both times they became too complacent and let the Germans gain control.

Yesterday Becker exacted swift revenge on Edberg.

Becker's 6-2 6-2 6-4 victory in the day's second singles levelled the final at 1-1 after Wilander had put the Swedes ahead with a five-set victory over Carl-Uwe

Steeb.

The opening two matches could not have been more different. Becker was clinically efficient in beating the man who deprived him of the Masters title in New York 12 days ago while Wilander made heavy weather of avenging his defeat by Steeb in last year's Davis Cup final in Gothenburg.

Wilander, number one a year



Becker and Jelen during their doubles match. (Reuters wirephoto)

ago but now ranked 12th, needed nearly four and a half hours to beat local man Steeb 5-7 7-6 6-7 6-2 6-3.

Becker, serving like a demon, needed just under two hours to collect his 27th Davis Cup singles win in 29 matches. He never looked troubled by Edberg, the world number three and the man he beat to win his third Wimbledon title this year.

Becker, who also holds the US Open crown, has now beaten Edberg 14 times in 22 meetings — including last year's final — and he looked perfectly at home on the fast carpet court in Stuttgart's Schleyer Hall.

He never dropped his serve, won seven games in a row between the first and second sets and hit 12 aces. Edberg, by contrast, struggled with his backhand and failed to convert a breakpoint early in the second set.

"It was one of my best matches," said Becker. "I don't think I can play better."

"The key was that I got an early break and once I started to roll I didn't look back any more," added Becker, who admitted the defeat in New York had fired him up.

Tenpin bowling

DUBLIN, Dec 16, (Reuters): American champion Patty Ann shot a strike with her last delivery to win the women's final of the tenpin bowling World Cup today.

In a closely-fought game, Ann beat Martina Beckel of West Germany by 202 pins to 191. Beckel reached the final following a two-frame roll-off against Australia's Jenni Hertrick after they tied on 181.

The West German almost snatched the title in the final frames but Ann's decisive strike underlined the authority she had shown throughout the week and confirmed her top seeding.

Akram restricted them to 13.

The two sides play their first one-day international at Gujranwala on Monday.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN		
Mansoor Akhtar c Maninder Singh b Sharma	53	
Saeed Anwar b Anjola	0	
Salim Malik c Tendulkar b	75	
Arshad Ayub	75	
Wasim Akram c Razdan b	4	
Srikkanth	4	
Imran Khan not out	12	
Salim Younis not out	3	
Extras (lb-1 w-0)	10	
Total (for four wickets — 20 overs)	157	
Fall of wickets: 1-42 134 3-137 4-140		
Did not bat: Javed Miandad, Abdul Qadir, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmad, Aaqib Javed		
Bowling: Razdan 2-0-1-0, Anjola 2-1-3-1, Tendulkar 1-0-0-0, Maninder Singh 4-0-27-0, Arshad Ayub 4-0-41-1, Sharma 4-0-41-1, Srikkanth 3-0-24-1		
INDIA		
R. Lamba c Saeed Anwar b Waqar Younis	26	
W. Raman b Mushtaq Ahmad	42	
A. Sharma c Saeed Anwar b	14	
Mushtaq Ahmad	13	
K. Srikkanth not out	13	
S. Tendulkar not out	53	
Extras (lb-2 w-3)	5	
Total (for three wickets — 10 overs)	153	
Fall of wickets: 1-64 2-79 3-88		
Did not bat: M. Azharuddin, S. Manpreet, Maninder Singh, Arshad Ayub, Salim Malik, Virender Razdan		
Bowling: Imran Khan 4-0-17-0, Wasim Akram 4-0-27-0, Aaqib Javed 4-0-26-0, Waqar Younis 2-0-14-1, Abdul Qadir 4-0-44-0, Mushtaq Ahmad 2-0-22-2		

(More cricket on Page 19)

Pakistan hold off India in one-day friendly



Salim Malik: Man of the Match

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Dec 16, (Reuters): Pakistan beat India by four runs in a close finish to a 20-overs-a-side friendly cricket match today.

The two sides agreed to play a reduced friendly match to entertain about 30,000 spectators instead of the scheduled first of the four-game one-day series after no play was possible in the morning because of fog. The friendly will not count in the series.

Pakistan, put in to bat first, mustered 157 for four in their 20 overs and restricted the Indians to 153 for three.

Salim Malik, who scored an aggressive 75 and was involved in a 130-run second-wicket partnership with opener Mansoor Akhtar (53), earned the Man of the Match award.

Imran Khan sent Mansoor Akhtar and Saeed Anwar to open the innings. Srikkanth also brought on his young pace duo of Vekir Razdan and Salil Ankola to open the attack.

Ankola quickly broke through when he shattered the stumps of Saeed Anwar for a duck.

The seasoned Salim Malik, with Mansoor, then set about the Indian bowling aggressively and, after completing half centuries, Pakistan reached 134 for one.

Ajay Sharma joined the attack and claimed the wicket of Mansoor Akhtar to a catch nicely held by Maninder Singh in the covers. Mansoor justified Imran's confidence in him with a knock that included six fours and a lofty six.

Salim looked poised for a rare century after seven fours and a towering six, but failed to read an off-spinner from Arshad Ayub and offered an easy catch to Tendulkar.

The Indians did not appear to take their task seriously in the beginning and were poorly placed at 89 for three when Sachin Tendulkar, the teenage stonemason from Bombay, joined skipper Krishnamachari Srikkanth to set their innings alight.

Raman Lamba (26) had fallen to Pakistani pace bowler Waqar Younis and Woorakeri Raman (42) and Ajay Sharma (14) to spinner Mushtaq Ahmad when Tendulkar came to the wicket.

Tendulkar hit one four and two sixes off Mushtaq and brought India in sight of victory by thrashing leg-spinner Abdul Qadir for three consecutive sixes and a four in scoring 27 runs in one over.

India needed 17 runs to win the match in the last over but Wasim

Baresi back for Italy's game against Argentina

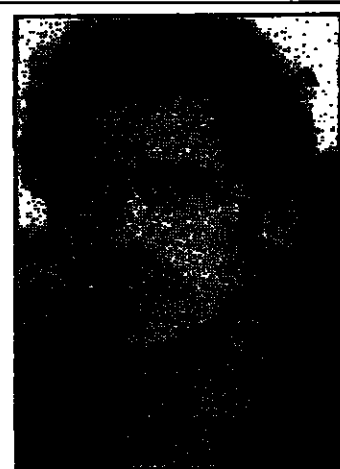
ROME, Dec 16, (Reuters): World Cup hosts Italy have confirmed the return of inspirational libero Franco Baresi and given him a race against jet lag to play in next Thursday's soccer friendly against holders Argentina.

Ac Milan captain Baresi, back in action after breaking his arm, and team mates Paolo Maldini and Roberto Donadoni are all in Tokyo for Sunday's World Club Championship match between the European champions and South American champions Medellin of Colombia.

They will have to re-acclimatise to European time when they join Azzurro Vicini's 18-man squad on Tuesday for the Argentina match in Cagliari, Sardinia, two days later.

Vicini, whose team are bookmakers' favourites for next June's World Cup finals, dropped midfielder Massimo Crippa of League leaders Napoli when he named the squad yesterday.

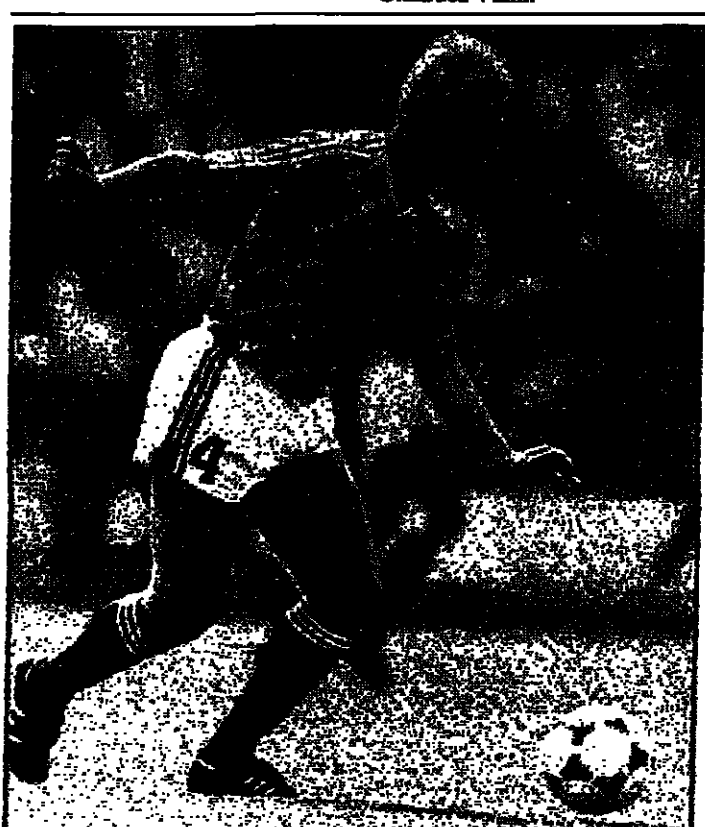
He was forced to leave out



Franco Baresi

injured defender Riccardo Ferri of League champions Internazionale and is expected to field the same side that drew 0-0 against England at Wembley last month.

Squad: Walter Zenga, Stefano Tacconi, Franco Baresi, Giuseppe Bergomi, Luigi de Agostini, Ciro Ferrara, Paolo Maldini, Nicola Berti, Fernando de Napoli, Roberto Donadoni, Luca Fusi, Giuseppe Giannini, Giancarlo Marocchi, Roberto Baggio, Andrea Carnevale, Roberto Mancini, Aldo Serena, Gianluca Vialli.



Koeman out of friendly

AMSTERDAM, Dec 16, (Reuters): Dutch captain Ronald Koeman will miss next Wednesday's friendly international with Brazil after his club Barcelona demand he take a break from soccer.

"Koeman has called coach Thijs Libregts to tell him he is unavailable because of the club ruling," a Dutch Football Association (KNVB) spokesman said on Saturday.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff has insisted his whole squad take a week off from December